

Inside



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RANDY SAVAGE'S
SECRET MANAGER?

July 1989
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Wrestling

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AND STING TO REUNITE!**

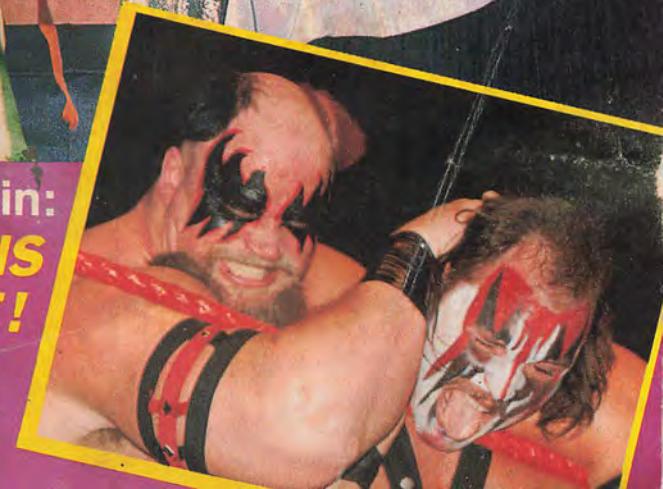


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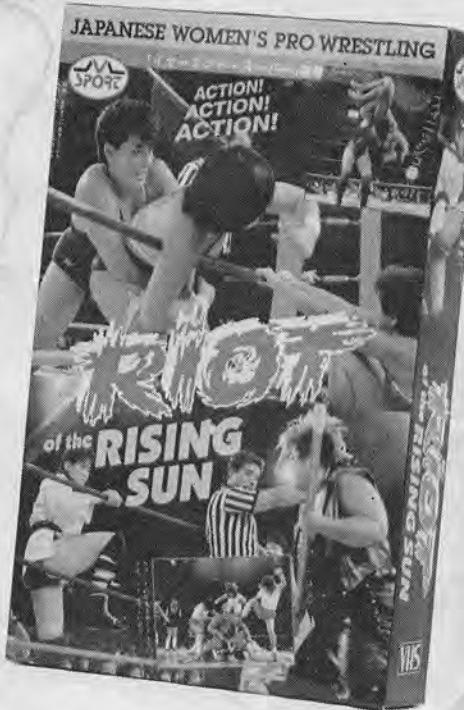
(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Wendi Richter & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Okumura
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- Monster Ripper & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Mimi Hagiwara
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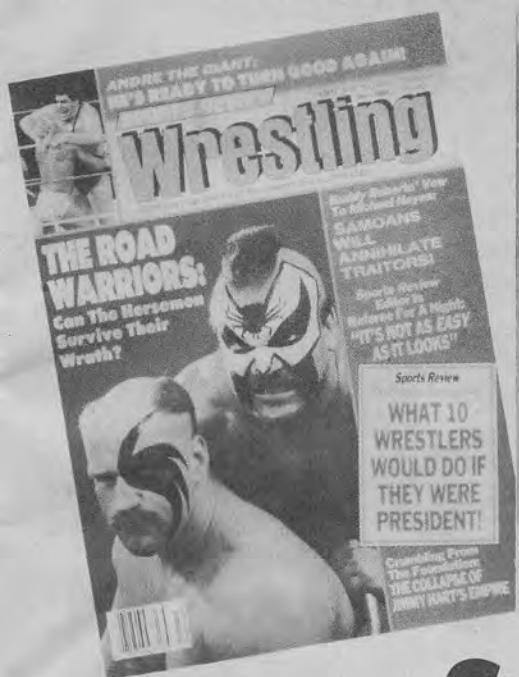
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THE MAGAZINE THAT RIPS
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INSIDE

Inside Wrestling

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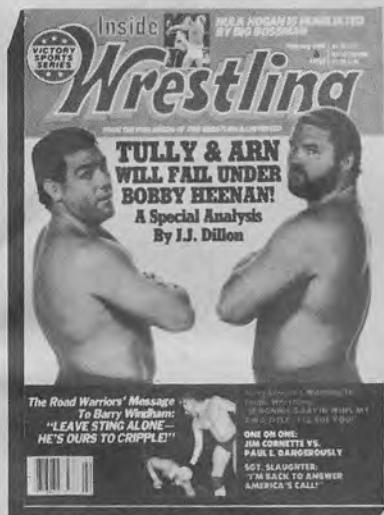
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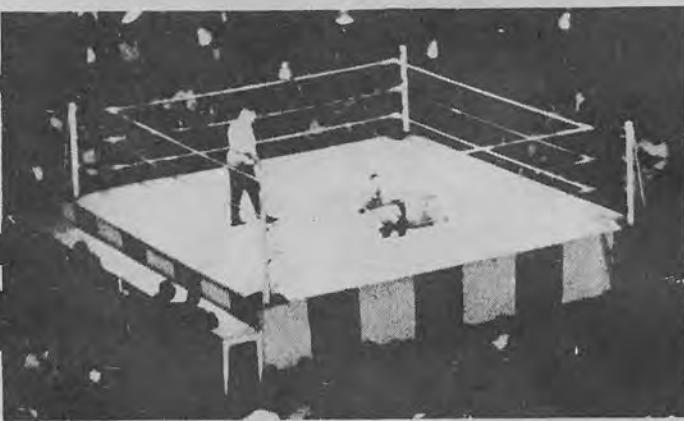
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SEND LETTERS TO:

SINCERELY YOURS

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HOGAN'S LUSTFUL HEART

I've absolutely had it with that lying, egotistical creep Hulk Hogan. Your article in the May 1989 issue ("Hulk Hogan Admits: 'I Love Elizabeth . . . Like A Sister' ") was a blatant attempt to cover up the *real* fact: Hogan doesn't love Elizabeth, and he surely doesn't love Randy Savage. The only person that musclebound oaf is capable of loving is himself.

I used to be a fan of Hogan's a few years ago when he first won the WWF title, because back then he seemed capable of minding his own business. Today's Hogan is a shell of his former self, both inside the ring and out. His constant pleas to all his "little Hulkamaniacs" are only shallow bantering to keep the members of the unintelligent populace on the Hogan bandwagon. Well, I jumped off after he blatantly cheated to help Savage win at Wrestle-Mania IV.

Savage accused Hogan of having "lust" for Elizabeth, but in reality the only lust Hogan has is for a floor-length mirror. I hope Savage beats him up so badly that he finally quits wrestling forever. Who needs him?

EDDIE NELSON
New York

Bill Apter's article in the May 1989 issue was the best piece on the Hogan-Savage-Elizabeth triangle I've ever read. It's clear now that the fans were wrong to have ever trusted Randy Savage. He's still the same rulebreaker he was when he almost killed Rick Steamboat and George Steele. Now I fear for both Elizabeth and Hogan. In his

current state, Savage is capable of just about anything.

Thankfully, Hogan has risen to this kind of challenge in the past, and there's no reason to expect him to fail now. Hogan's pride has been seriously hurt by Savage's accusations of Hogan's supposed "lust" for Elizabeth and for the WWF title. Even if Hogan did secretly covet Savage's belt, so what? Wouldn't any self-respecting professional want to regain one of wrestling's most coveted titles?

Hogan is a hero to millions of people all over the world. After he wins the title back from Savage, I'll bet Elizabeth stands by his side forever!

DONNA GREENE
Burlington, VT

SUPERSTAR SLAUGHTER

When Sgt. Slaughter returned to the AWA a few months ago, it was no big deal to me. I figured he was just another comic book hero, and we had enough of those kind of guys already.



Is Sgt. Slaughter just another comic-book hero like G.I. Joe? Not at all, claims reader Dwayne Soper, who says Slaughter is truly deserving of America's respect.

Today I am swallowing my words. In every match, Slaughter is proving that he is a top contender to the AWA World championship. After looking at his past, I discovered that Slaughter is mainly a brawler, but he's also a good wrestler who always gets the job done.

Then I found that the former Marine has co-held the NWA World tag team title with Don Kernodle. Plus, he's a former U.S. champion, and he held the Americas title in both the AWA and the NWF. Those are some solid credentials.

Even though I like and respect Tom Zenk, who now is the number-one contender, and Larry Zbyszko, the current champion, the title will soon be in the hands of Sgt. Slaughter. He's truly America's greatest hero.

DWAYNE SOPER
Medicine Hat, Alberta

MIDNIGHT MADNESS

I am writing in regard to the letter by Arthur Risk Jr. ("The Real Midnights") in the May 1989 issue. He stated in the letter that Jim Cornette's Midnight Express are not the originals, and that Paul E. Dangerously's version was superior.

Well, Arthur, let me ask you something. Which team won at Starrcade '88? And who won at Chi-Town Rumble '89? Jim Cornette's team won,

that's who. And now those old men, Randy Rose and Dennis Condrey, are in the unemployment line.

So who's the best now?

SEAN UNDERHILL
Louisville, KY

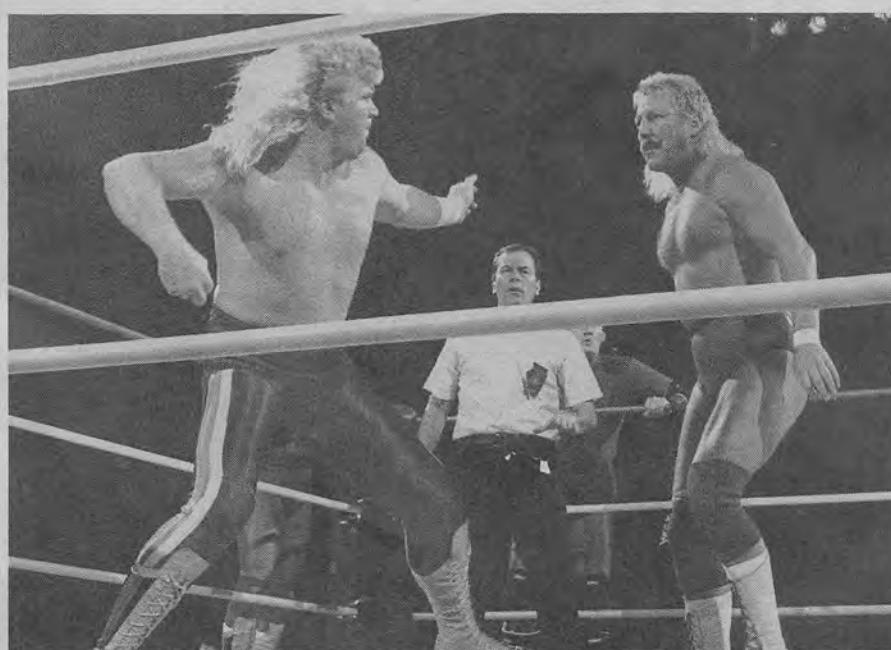
A LITTLE GIANT

I would like to relate to you an experience I just had at the Seattle-Tacoma Airport.

I arrived at the airport at about 6:00 a.m. It was very quiet with very few



Andre the Giant may be a hero to some fans, but Dennis Esperum writes to say that the Giant is no hero of his—particularly after he met Andre in an airport.



Bobby Eaton prepares to unload a right fist to the jaw of Randy Rose. Eaton and Stan Lane bested Rose and Dennis Condrey at Chi-Town Rumble '89.

people around. I was staring out the window at the heavy snow that was falling, when suddenly I caught the sight of one of my idols—it was Andre the Giant!

A sense of exhilaration came over me as I hoped to meet one of the many wrestlers I have nearly worshiped all my life. But without even a single touch of the giant's hand, my body, soul, dreams, and hopes were crushed. This man that I once held in such high regard—and whose sport I have supported—refused to even acknowledge my presence.

As things turned out, I was seated in first class, three rows from Andre, when I boarded the plane. Again, I tried to speak to him, and even offered him a book to read. Again, my pursuit

(Continued on page 48)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Stu
Saks

Editor-in-Chief

In a world where Tommy John can be the opening-day pitcher for the New York Yankees, never—but never—say an athlete is over the hill.

I'll admit it, I thought Ken Patera was through. His career was on a steady decline after being released from prison in December 1986 and joining the WWF. In 1988 and into 1989, he lost a lot of matches most people thought he should have won. By the time he finally left the WWF, he was a mid-card wrestler at best. Most people, myself included, thought he should retire.

I know three men who wish he had. On March 25, Patera and Brad Rheingans teamed to end the year-long AWA World tag team title reign of Pat Tanaka and Paul Diamond, managed by "Diamond" Dallas Page. People are already calling this match the "upset of the year." Don't try to convince Ken Patera, though.

"Upset, my butt," Patera complained. "If Tanaka and Diamond were the better wrestlers and we just got lucky, then call it an upset. But you saw the match. You tell me if it was an upset."

Patera is absolutely right. Sure, there was a controversial result, but Patera and Rheingans were well-conditioned, well-prepared, and extremely sharp. And say what you will about the quality of wrestlers in the AWA; Tanaka and Diamond are one of the finest young teams around.

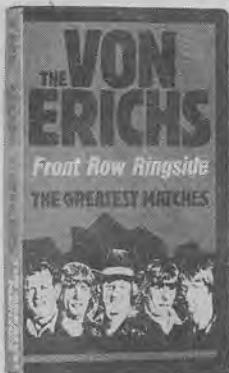
An upset? If you were betting with a bookie, yes it was. But odds are only numbers. When there are people involved, there are an infinite amount of variables. "If nobody had ever said that I was washed up," Patera said, "I would have been gone by now. But tell a winner that he can't do something, and you've given him all the motivation he needs to prove he can."

Ken Patera is a winner.



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TOP SECRET

Behind the Dressing Room Door

by David
Rosenbaum

CONTRARY TO POPULAR belief, Hulk Hogan does not live at Box 48, Rockville Centre, New York, 11571. Neither does Ric Flair, The Ultimate Warrior, Jerry Lawler, Kerry Von Erich, or any other wrestler.

Despite this, *Inside Wrestling* and its sister publications receive thousands of letters every year addressed to various professional wrestlers. We have no idea what gives readers the idea that wrestlers can be reached by writing to us. Sure, we see them all the time, but when our writers or photographers go out to cover an event, playing postman is the last thing on their minds.

And if we were to forward these letters to the wrestlers they're addressed to, it would cost us well into six figures every year.

So here's the point: If you want to write to a wrestler, do *not* send the letter to us. We *do not* forward letters to the wrestlers, and in almost every case the wrestlers never receive these letters. Letters to wrestlers addressed to *Inside Wrestling* and its sister publications receive a one-way ticket to the garbage can.

Of course, this presents a problem for many fans. They want to write to their favorite—or least favorite—wrestlers, and the stars themselves usually like to hear from the fans. And it goes without saying that wrestlers cannot divulge their actual addresses. So, fans have only one recourse: Send your letters in care of the federations. They'll make sure the wrestlers receive your mail.

The addresses for the major federations are as follows:

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(Continued on page 52)



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EVERY ONCE IN a while I have to take a look around the sport and get some random observations off my chest.

Can't the NWA find better opposition for **The Road Warriors** than **Junkyard Dog** and **Ron Simmons**? After all, a title is only as valuable as the men against which it is defended, and we're talking about the NWA World tag team title here. Not to discredit Simmons and JYD, but I would think the Warriors should be facing **The Midnight Express**, **The Samoan Swat Team**, and **The Varsity Club**.



Randy Savage

Speaking of titles, the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard with regard to a championship is without a doubt this: World Class has suspended the weight limit on their light heavyweight title. Say what??!

Randy Savage is wrestling better than ever right now. I think his alliance with **Hulk Hogan** was, from his point

of view, a forced one; this is the *real* Savage we're seeing right now.

I think we're also seeing the *real* **Michael Hayes** now, too.

I hope that Florida fans start giving the FCW some solid support. With competitors like **Dusty Rhodes**, **Al Perez**, **Scott Hall**, **Dick Slater**, **Steve Keirn**, **Mike Graham**, **Brett Sawyer**, and **Bam Bam Bigelow** on hand, the talent roster is looking very impressive.

Jimmy Snuka may be back in the WWF (frankly, I don't know how long the comeback will last), but even if the "Superfly" won the

WWF World title, it still wouldn't eclipse the memories I have of the Snuka-Bob Backlund wars of 1982.

It amazes me that **Sting** has yet to win a singles title in this sport. The man is clearly world champion material. I can only attribute it to matchmakers' myopia.

Would anybody really notice—or care—if **Brutus Beefcake** left the WWF tomorrow?

Or **The Honky Tonk Man**?

Or **Danny Davis**?

Or **Boris Zukhov**?

Talk about being lost in the shuffle.

ON THE ROAD

with
CRAIG PETERS

Speaking about the WWF shuffle, it was good to see that **Butch Reed** left the area in favor of the NWA. Reed has always been an exceptional athlete, and his WWF stint as "**The Natural**" destroyed a great deal of his competitive drive. But after nearly two months of NWA competition, Reed has yet to regain the spirit that made him so impressive about five years ago. I think he's still got it in him, but he's going to need someone besides **Hiro Matsuda** to bring it out. Maybe **Paul E. Dangerously**?

Don't you get the feeling that **Kevin Sullivan**, **Steve Williams**, and **Mike Rotundo** are just tolerating **Dan Spivey** as a member of **The Varsity Club**, in much the same way Sullivan and Rotundo once tolerated **Rick Steiner**? And don't be surprised if Spivey meets the same fate as Steiner: an unceremonious dumping from the collegiate brotherhood.

The Samoan Swat Team may be the most underrated tag team in the sport today.

Bob Smith's story about **Nikita Koloff** and his wife **Mandy** in the Summer 1989 edition of *Wrestling 89* is required reading. Mandy is suffering from Hodgkin's disease, and she and Nikita spoke candidly to Bob about their mutual battle against this serious illness. The story may upset you, but you won't soon forget it.

T-shirts and ice cream bars are one thing, but does **Vince McMahon** really believe that the fashion-conscious public will shell out serious money for a perfume named after **Elizabeth**?

What are those things hanging from **Ultimate Warrior**'s armpits?

Too bad the WWF eliminated their junior heavyweight title; it would have been the perfect target for the talents of **The Blue Blazer**, who deserves all the accolades he gets.

Do you think **The Iron Sheik** has read **Salman Rushdie's** *The Satanic Verses*?

Roddy Piper's teaming with **Morton Downey** at **WrestleMania V** for an interview segment is a ridiculous idea, but I hope it means that the "Rowdy Scot" will soon be making a return to the ring. □



COMING JUNE 13

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Wrestler

THE

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ATLANTIC CITY**

and

**THE NWA'S RAGIN' CAJUN CLASH
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NAMES MAKI

IN ONE OF the biggest stories of the year, **Jim Cornette** and **The Midnight Express—Stan Lane** and **Bobby Eaton**—have shocked their legions of fans by leaving the NWA. According to Cornette, their contract with the NWA expired on April 15, and negotiations to come up with a new pact did not meet their wishes in terms of money and future match assignments.



THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS

"Personally, I'd stay in the NWA just to keep making **Paul E. Dangerously's** life miserable," Cornette said upon making the announcement. "But as the manager of my team, that would be unfair to Bobby and Stan. I can't make them stay if they don't really want to just because of my personal vendetta."

Cornette and his men had a track record of solid success since coming to the NWA. Eaton and **Dennis Condrey** won the NWA World tag team title in February 1986. In 1987, Cornette replaced Condrey with Lane, and the team truly hit its stride, winning the U.S. tag team title twice during the next two years. Their crowning moment was their capturing of the NWA World tag team title from **Tully Blanchard** and **Arn Anderson** on Sep-

tember 10, 1988, in Philadelphia. That victory made them the first team in NWA history to hold the U.S. and World belts concurrently.

Now, after successfully driving Dangerously's **"Original" Midnight Express** out of the NWA, Cornette claims he and his men will take some time off before contemplating their next move. Where will the Express turn up next? Stay tuned!

Another team in the midst of change is **Bad Company—Pat Tanaka** and **Paul Diamond**—who lost the AWA World tag team title to **The Olympians—Brad Rheingans** and **Ken Patera**—on March 25 in Rochester, Minnesota. Following the loss, Tanaka and Diamond began arguing with each other. Is a split between the former champions impending?

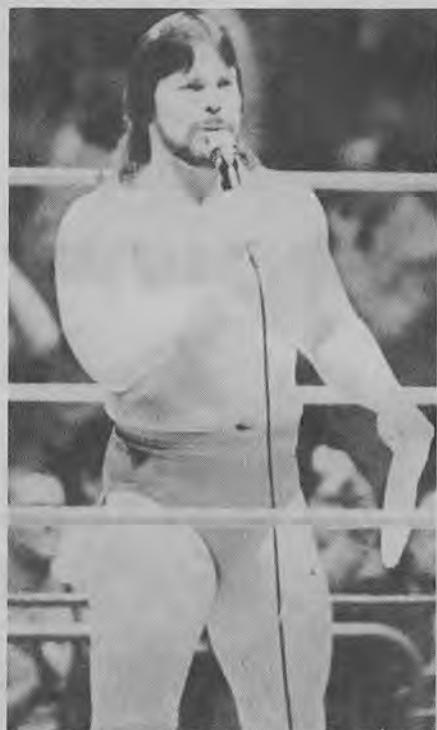
"Stay cool, folks," insists **"Diamond" Dallas Page**, Bad Company's



"DIAMOND" DALLAS PAGE

manager. "It was just the heat of the moment talkin'. Paul and Pat have been teamin' up for more than two years now, and they're as close as any partners in wrestling. All is well with Bad Company, daddy, and we'll prove it when we get another shot at Patera and Rheingans. We'll show 'em what real champions are all about."

Lanny Poffo shocked his fans by reciting pro-**Randy Savage** poems in the weeks before WrestleMania V. One



LANNY POFFO

of the hottest rumors in the WWF is that Poffo may team again with Savage, his brother, in the coming weeks

... **Jimmy Snuka** is back in the WWF! The popular Polynesian star made his return on March 7 in El Paso, Texas, pinning **Boris Zukhov**. Snuka, famous for his death-defying leaps from the top rope, was nearly as popular as **Hulk Hogan** five years ago.

Dusty Rhodes has won the first

N' NEWS

Bill Apter
reporting...

Professional Wrestling Federation title, defeating **U.S. Steel** in front of a packed house at the Tampa State Fairgrounds Pavilion in Florida on March 11. On the same card, **Al Perez** won the Florida Championship Wrestling title from **Mike Graham**—and broke Graham's arm in the process.

"Now, it's Dusty I want," claims Perez, a former World Class champion. "I want to hold both belts as the same time—and I'll bust one of that big goon's arms as part of the bargain."

Davey Boy Smith won the Stampede North American title from **Don Muraco** on March 24 in Calgary. Smith, now wrestling singly because of injuries to his tag team partner, **Dynamite Kid**, managed to defeat Muraco



KING HAKU

cording to the Associated Press, Haku allegedly got into a scuffle with two men after a woman refused his request to "bow to the king" at a local night spot on February 15 ... **Robert Fuller** has put a \$20,000 bounty on the head of CWA champion **Jeff Jarrett**, who also holds the World Class tag team title with **Kerry Von Erich**.

Also in World Class, popular **Eric Embry** has been reinstated! Embry lost a loser-leaves-WCCW match to Texas champion **Gary Young** in February, but a letter-writing campaign headed by **Percy Pringle** led World Class matchmaker **Frank Dusek** to reconsider the ban on the light heavyweight champion.

"I can't thank Percy and the fans enough," said a jubilant Embry on March 25, the day the ban was lifted. "Now, I'm gonna run **Skandor Akbar** and his men out of Texas for good. Now that I'm back, I'm here to stay, baby."

Stampede fans and wrestlers would like to ban new TV color commentator **"Bulldog" Bob Brown**. During a televised match pitting **Larry Cameron** against **Chris Benoit**, Brown was doing commentary with **Ed Whalen**

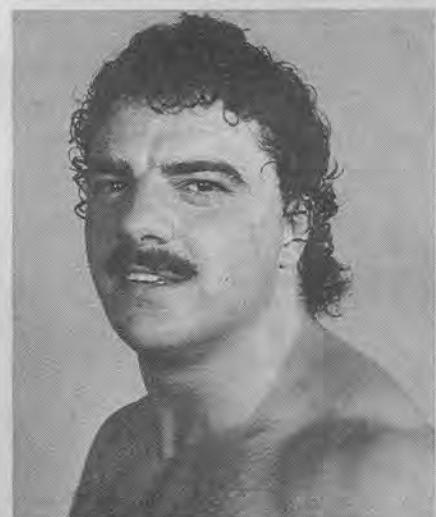


DAVEY BOY SMITH

in spite of outside interference by **Harley Race** ... **King Haku** was scheduled to be arraigned on misdemeanor charges of third-degree assault in Gates, New York, on March 29. Ac-

when Cameron hurled Benoit from the ring. Brown left the announcer's table, hit Benoit with a chair, and rolled him back in the ring, where Cameron pinned him easily.

Super Black Ninja, now billed as **The Great Mota**, is competing in the NWA under the management of **Gary Hart** ... **Tracy Smothers** and **John Paul** won the CWA tag team title in a tournament on March 13 in Memphis ... **Phil Apollo** and **Eric Sbracchia** captured the ICW tag team title from **Vic Steamboat** and **Joe**



JOE SAVOLDI

Savoldi on March 5 in Augusta, Maine ... Former partners **Steve Doll** and **Scott Petersen**, formerly known as **The Southern Boys**, are now feuding in the Pacific Northwest area.

On a sad note, **Paul Bauman**, whose photographic work graced the pages of our magazines for more than 10 years, died in February at the age of 58. Bauman was more than one of the most talented lensmen in our business: He was a good friend who will be sorely missed by all of us here at *Inside Wrestling*.

That's all for now, fans. See you at the matches! □

THE

INSIDER

By Eddie Ellner

[The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.]

Question Box: Was Terry Taylor's mother really Frank Perdue's mistress?

AND THEY PUT disclaimers on my columns. They censor me while insisting upon responsible coverage for Terry (I

Terry Taylor—the new Terry Taylor—Red Rooster Terry Taylor—makes his way to the ring. Eddie Ellner can't understand what's come over the formerly respectable grapper.



I Am A Fool) Taylor. They claim I cannot be trusted, but allow the likes of Terry (I Deserve A Painful Death) Taylor to express his views freely in the magazine. They criticize my penchant for sensationalism, pare (what they claim is) offensive copy to the bone, accuse me of absurdism, slander, and fan-baiting, but permit a man who crows like a chicken to grace their pages!

Something is dreadfully wrong. The indignities suffered by WWF wrestlers are varied and un-

ending. In pursuit of a paycheck, formerly respectable grapplers have condescended to the lowest lifeforms imaginable.

The saddest and sorriest saga of them all is that of Terry (Cockadoodledoo) Taylor, the most pathetic creature of all animals, real and imagined.

• "Walk Like A Man"

—Four Seasons, 1964

"Walk Like An Ape"

—Devo, 1978

"Walk Like A Rooster"

—Terry Taylor, 1989

The evolution of Terry Taylor encompasses all the sordid elements we've come to associate with this decade. In a remarkably short period of time, Taylor has embraced each reviling quality his generation offers: yuppie self-absorption, desperate money-pandering, simpering lackeyism, and irreversible sheep-blazing.

Professionally, Taylor traded in a marginally successful and decent reputation in the UWF, a federation respected for its skill and integrity, for a career in the WWF's world of sleaze and slime. While I was never charmed by the pretty boy, and was certainly never convinced of the rulebreaking heart he appropriated during his stint as UWF TV champion, I could at least give Taylor credit for trying.

He challenged Nikita Koloff when Koloff was NWA TV champion and practically unbeatable. He fought Steve Williams and be-

(Continued on page 56)

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A—ON—ASSIGNMENT

BY LIZ HUNTER



Michael Hayes enjoys partying as much as he does wrestling. Liz Hunter wasn't at all surprised when the former Freebird turned rulebreaker again.

HE WAS A beautiful young boy, slim-hipped, bronzed, his long blond locks framing the flawless lines of his face. His body was all hard knots of muscle and blue-green trestles of veins. His voice belied the sculptured body—hearty and thick, but comforting in its strength and melody. Michael Hayes was carefully molded by angels, but it wouldn't take long for his hell-bent enthusiasm to interfere with God's plans for him.

Good looks and a slick patter kept him in serious trouble; a right cross with the wallop of a jack-hammer kept him from getting hurt. It was only natural for him to gravitate toward the wrestling ring,

the inexorable pull of sanctioned mayhem proving too tempting for the man who liked to talk with his fists. He was bred to wrestle: a natural brawler with jungle instincts and mule-like ability to absorb punishment. His work ethic was practically non-existent; his abilities far exceeded his desire to extend those abilities.

Michael Hayes was every daughter's dream—and every mother's nightmare. Life revolved, quite literally, around wine, women, song, and wrestling. The ring remained an afterthought till the day he met Terry Gordy and Buddy Roberts. Families throughout the south raised white flags on the occasion of the birth of The

Fabulous Freebirds. Potbellied good ol' boys and disarmingly beautiful blonde girls formed the improbable nucleus of the Freebird Fan Club.

The Freebirds, meanwhile, kicked butt.

They weren't pretty—signs of physical neglect were vivid reminders of their after-hours excesses—but they were successful. And, oh, how they loved to punish pretty boys! "Bamm Bamm" Gordy swallowed opponents like a 280-pound sponge, spewing out broken bodies in his violent wake. Roberts gargled with Jack Daniels, then vanquished foes with his breath and a deadly

(Continued on page 60)

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



SAVANNAH JACK

This popular star, who once held the Universal Wrestling Federation TV title and later was a star in World Class, was forced to retire in late 1987 because of injuries and health problems. Jack recently decided to hit the comeback trail,

and is now wrestling for several independent organizations in the midwest. "I'll have a major belt by the end of '89," he told us. "Let the fans know that Savannah Jack is back on track, baby!"



KAMALA

The man known around the world as the "Ugandan Giant" is currently touring the Orient, where he is half of the most frightening tag team imaginable—he's joined forces with Abdullah the Butcher! Gen. Skandor Akbar, Kamala's manager, has warned that when the tour is over the African will return to World Class.

"He's gonna finish off Eric Embry and the Von Erichs once and for all," claims Akbar, the scourge of Texas fans.



IVAN KOLOFF

Koloff, arguably the greatest Russian professional wrestler in history, has left the NWA. The former WWF World champion recently signed with the newly formed Atlantic Coast Wrestling, which promotes cards throughout the

Carolinas. That's good news for ACW fans, as Ivan is now teaming with his nephew, Nikita, and they've vowed to rid the area of the M.O.D. Squad, who have been destroying all opposition in local rings.



HARLEY RACE

"Tell 'em the King is still alive and well!" is what Race told us while on a recent tour of the Stampede region. After losing the "Battle for the Crown" to King Haku at the Royal Rumble this past January, Race left the WWF and has

embarked on an ambitious tour, wrestling in Canada, Japan, and several other countries. "I've still got another title in me before I'm through," insists the seven-time former NWA World champion.

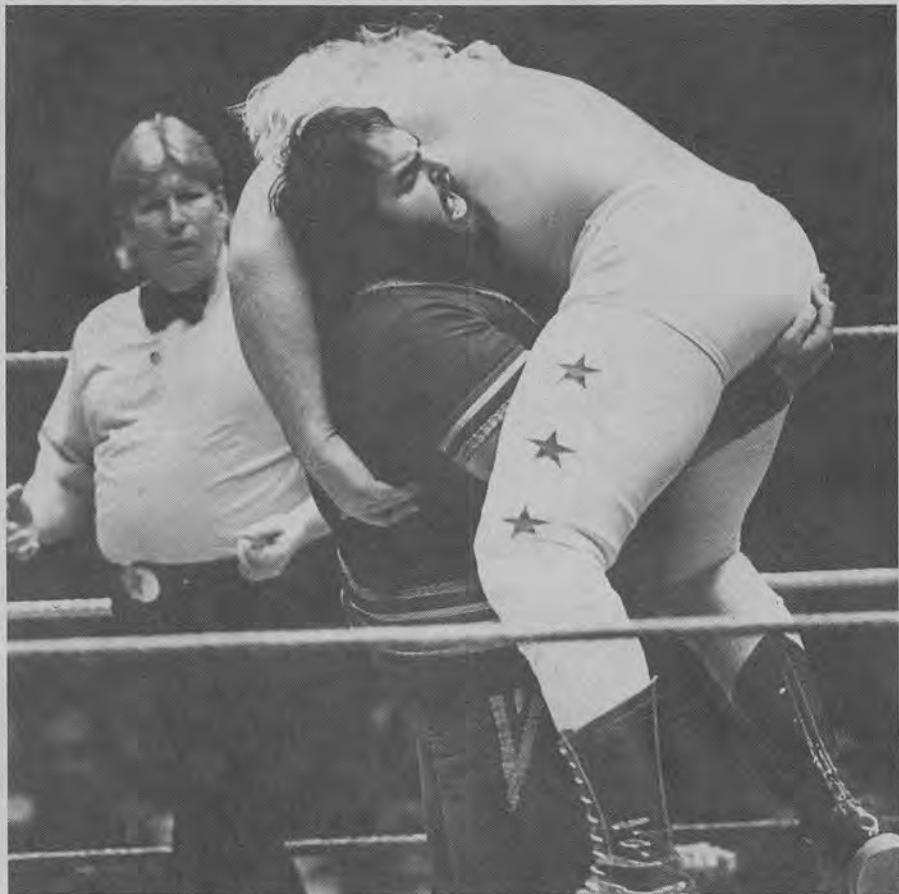
INSIDE WRESTLING

156

CAPSULE PROFILE

AKEEM HAS UNDERGONE an amazing transformation since joining the WWF ... Grew up on the mean streets of Chicago ("There isn't a tougher place to be") ... For most of his career, has been known as One Man Gang ... With Kelly Kiniski, won the Mid-Atlantic tag team title from Jimmy Valiant and Bugsy McGraw in a one-night tournament on May 23, 1983 ... Lost the belts to McGraw and Rufus R. Jones on July 20, 1983 ... Has also held the U.S. (Florida) tag title with Ron Bass ("The cowboy never had a better partner") ... Was managed in Florida by J.J. Dillon ... Wrestled in World Class ... Joined Gen. Skandor Akbar's Devastation Inc. in the UWF ... Just before the final to determine a UWF heavyweight champion, OMG attacked Hacksaw Duggan, giving Terry Gordy the advantage he needed to win the match ("Even back then, Hacksaw was a stupid idiot") ... Ironically, Gang won the UWF title by default on November 9, 1986, in Tulsa, Oklahoma, when Gordy failed to appear for a title defense due to an injury ... On December 12, lost to Steve Williams in the final of the UWF/Pro Wrestling Illustrated tournament ... Lost the UWF belt to Big Bubba Rogers—now his Twin Towers partner Big Bossman—in Muskogee, Oklahoma, on April 19,

AKEEM

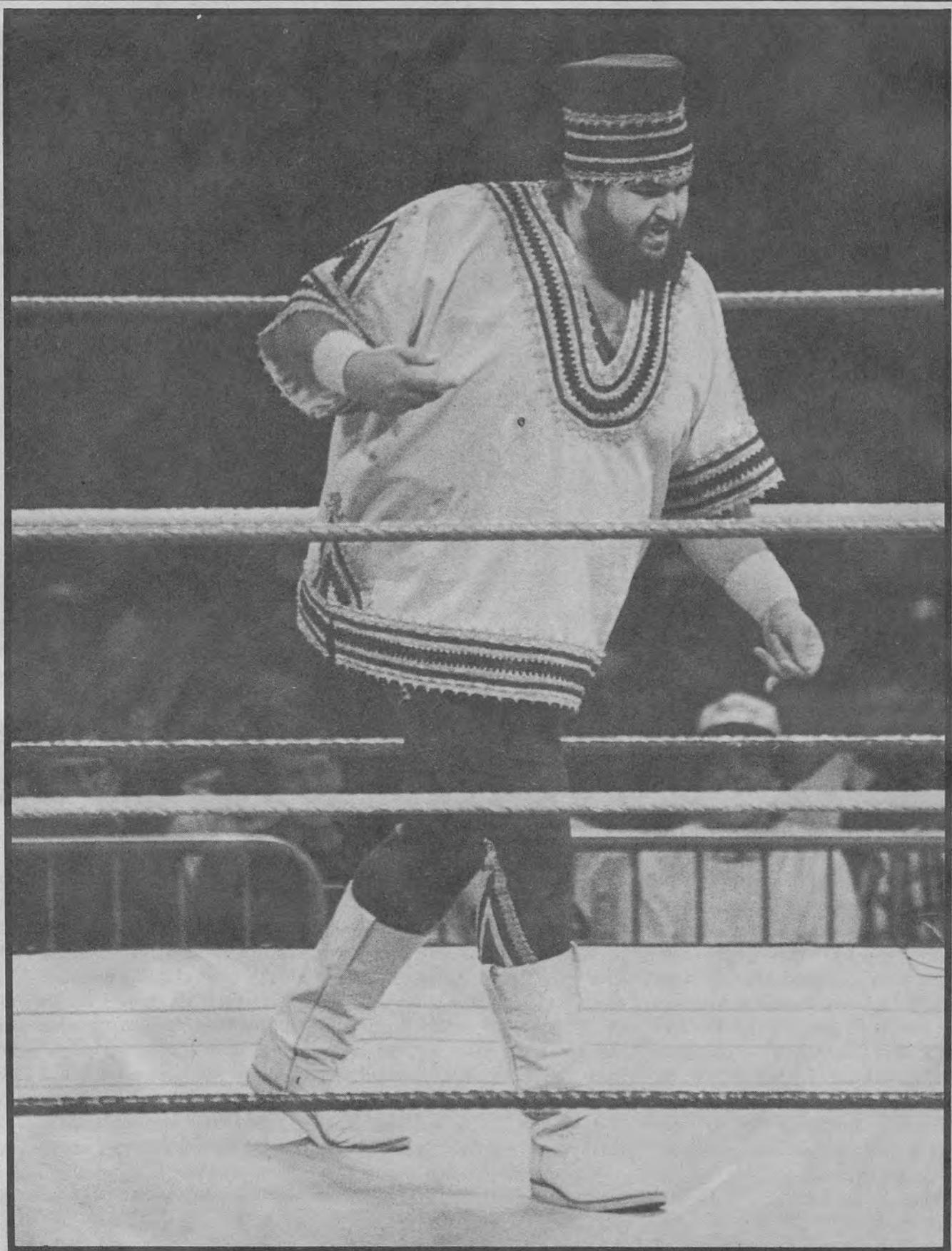


Akeem lifts up John Studd for a slam. Akeem—once known as One Man Gang—is teaming with Big Bossman. They're known as the Twin Towers, and they're a terrifying duo.

1987 ("Don't try to make something of it now!") ... Unbeknownst to Gang, Akbar had made a deal with Rogers before the match ("That dirty slime will never manage Akeem again!") ... Soon after the loss, he left for the WWF, where Slick became his manager ("The 'Slickster' has a lot more class and style") ... Feuded with Randy Savage, Bam Bam Bigelow, and Don Muraco ... He and stablemate Butch Reed brutalized Superstar Graham in an incident that led to Graham's retirement ("He's an old man who doesn't even belong behind the mike") ... Frequently wrestled Hulk Hogan for the WWF World title ... Lost to Savage in the semifinal of the WrestleMania IV title tournament ...

Last year, was "transformed" into an African, Akeem, in a bizarre ceremony staged by Slick ("Akeem, the African Dream, that is") ... Teamed with Slick's other man, Big Bossman, to become the Twin Towers ... They terrorized Hogan and Savage when those men were the Megapowers ("The Megafailures is more like it") ... Were wrestling the Megapowers when the Hogan-Savage breakup occurred ... It was Akeem who threw Savage onto Elizabeth ("Was it an accident? Decide for yourself!") ... At press time, the Twin Towers were preparing for a confrontation with The Rockers at WrestleMania V ("Those puny little Rockers will be crushed by the power of the Towers") □

CAPSULE PROFILE PINUP



AKEEM

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September 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Mascaras, Strongbow, Garvin.

February 1980/Stories include: Patera, Snuka, Santana, Albano.

April 1980/Stories include: Hogan, Rich, Backlund, Mascaras.

May 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Bockwinkel.

June 1980/Stories include: Putski, Andre, Hernandez, Keirn.

August 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Wrestling II, Baker, Koloff.

September 1980/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, Ladd, Iron Sheik.

November 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Putski, Bockwinkel, Koloff.

January 1981/Stories include: Race, Snuka, Morales, Slater.

April 1981/Stories include: Albano, Sammartino Jr., Race, McGraw.

May 1981/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Von Erich, Backlund, Santana.

June 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Hansen, Piper, Gagne.

September 1981/Stories include:

Patera, Koloff, Khan, Junkyard Dog.

January 1982/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Race, Humperdink.

February 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Flair, Steamboat, Rhodes.

March 1982/Stories include: Rich, Backlund, Idol, Spoiler.

April 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Hogan, Von Erich.

June 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.

July 1982/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.

August 1982/Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.

September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.

October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.

December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.

February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.

March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.

April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.

May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.

June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.

July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.

August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.

September 1983/Stories include: Zbyszko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.

October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.

November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.

December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.

March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.

April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.

May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.

June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.

July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.

August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.

September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.

October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.

November 1984/Stories include:

Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.

December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.

January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.

February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.

March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.

May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.

June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.

July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.

August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbyszko vs. The Tonga Kid.

September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.

October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.

November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.

December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.

January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.

February 1986/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.

March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude.

April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts

May 1986/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Rolls.

June 1986/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.

July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.

August 1986/Stories include: Wrestlemania 2, Garvins, Martel, Fab Ones.

September 1986/Stories include:

Andre, Rhodes-T.A., Adams, Windham.

October 1986/Stories include: Flair-Lugar, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors.

November 1986/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.

December 1986/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.

January 1987/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.

February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair.

March 1987/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.

April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.

May 1987/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.

June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.

July 1987/Stories include: Danny Davis, DiBiase, Rockers, Rotundo, Andersons.

August 1987/Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.

September 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Race, R&R Exp., Rich, Honky Tonk.

October 1987/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawler.

November 1987/Stories include: War Games, Mr. T, Bulldogs, Rhodes.

December 1987/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.

January 1988/Stories include: R&R Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.

February 1988/Stories include: Savage, Kevin Von, Sting, Tully & Arn.

March 1988/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.

April 1988/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Andre-Hogan-Dibiase.

May 1988/Stories include: Zbyszko, DiBiase, Warriors, Rockers, Fritz Von.

June 1988/Stories include: Warriors, Savage, R&R Express, Baby Doll.

July 1988/Stories include: Hogan-Savage-Dibiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting.

August 1988/Stories include: Savage, Missy Hyatt, Sting, Hayes, Honky Tonk.

September 1988/SPECIAL ISSUE: Color coverage of WMIV, Parade of Champs, Crockett Cup. Plus: Lawler, Von Erich, Hart, Cornette.

October 1988/Stories include: Megapowers vs. Megabucks, Horsemen, Lawler.

November 1988/Stories include: Kerry vs. Lawler, Windham, Luger, Muraco.

December 1988/Stories include: Powers of Pain, Ultimate, Flair, Piper.

January 1989/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Sting, Arn, Kerr-Lawler.

February 1989/Stories include: Hogan-Bossman, Tully & Arn, Warriors-Windham-Sting.

March 1989/Stories include: Hennig, Midnights-Midnights, Fuller & Golden, Ultimate.

May 1989/Stories include: Hogan, Steinier, Morton, Bad Co., Taylor.

INSIDE WRESTLING

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NEWS FROM THE

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

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CORNWALL, ONTARIO By Mike Bradley



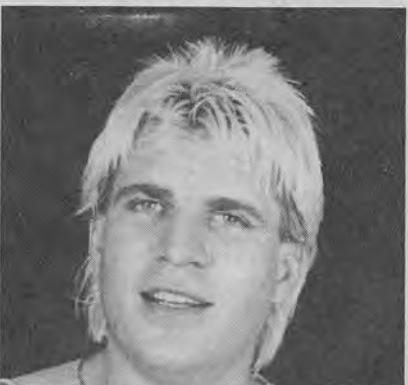
JIM NEIDHART
vs.
GREG VALENTINE



After 10 minutes had gone by in this grudge match, Valentine had Neidhart down on the canvas. Valentine adjusted his shinguards and went for the figure-four leglock, but Neidhart kicked out. Later, when Valentine was down, Neidhart removed the shinguards and held it high above his head to show everybody. Taking advantage, Valentine snuck in and rolled him up for the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Andre the Giant pinned Jake Roberts . . . King Haku defeated Jim Powers . . . The Blue Blazer pinned Danny Davis . . . The Rockers defeated The Brain Busters by DQ . . . Koko B. Ware upset Nikolai Volkoff . . . Paul Roma beat Conquistador I.

PITTSBURGH, PA By Dean Grande



TOMMY RICH
vs.
GREG GAGNE



It was a scientific match for the first five minutes, but then Rich resorted to rule-breaking tactics. He tossed Gagne out of the ring and rammed him into the metal railing and the timekeeper's table. After bringing Gagne back into the ring, Rich executed a back suplex. With both men's shoulders on the mat, the referee counted the pin and awarded the match to Gagne, who was able to lift his shoulder up before the three-count. Rich then piledrived Gagne in anger.

OTHER BOUTS: Larry Zbyszko defeated Sgt. Slaughter by DQ . . . Bad Company beat Ken Patera & Terry Gibbs . . . Wahoo McDaniel defeated Manny Fernandez . . . Wendi Richter pinned Olympia Hartauer . . . Shane Douglas pinned R.C. Anderson.

BOSTON, MA By John Tassi



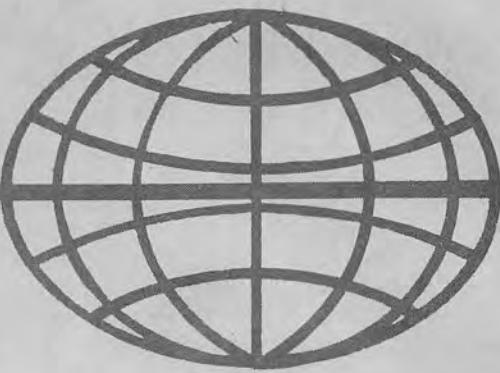
RANDY SAVAGE
vs.
ULTIMATE WARRIOR



As Savage entered the ring, the Warrior attacked him before he could get off his robe. Warrior gave Savage a series of clotheslines before Savage rolled out of the ring. Later in the match, Rick Rude appeared at ringside to distract the Warrior. It worked: Warrior went after Rude and got counted out. But the Warrior charged back into the ring and threw Savage out, then threw Rude into the ropes, pressed him over his head, and slammed him.

OTHER BOUTS: Bad News Brown pinned the Duke of Dorchester . . . Ron Bass pinned Paul Roma . . . Jim Powers pinned Iron Mike Sharpe . . . Jacques & Raymond Rougeau defeated The Bushwhackers by DQ.

WRESTLING CAPITALS



PHILADELPHIA, PA By Rubin Maynard



RICK STEAMBOAT
vs.
RIC FLAIR



Flair was determined to regain the precious NWA World title he lost to Steamboat at Chi-Town Rumble. After some intense action, Flair had Steamboat pinned and the referee made the three-count, but Lex Luger came out and told the ref that Flair's feet were on the ropes. The match was restarted. Barry and Kendall Windham came to ringside and started to pound on Luger. In the heat of the action, Steamboat snuck up on Flair and cradled him for the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Dick Murdoch pinned Bob Bradley ... Michael Hayes pinned Joey Maggs ... Rick Steiner pinned Kevin Sullivan ... Sting pinned Butch Reed ... Barry Windham pinned Eddie Gilbert ... Lex Luger pinned Kendall Windham ... The Road Warriors defeated Mike Rotundo & Steve Williams.

YOKOHAMA CITY, JAPAN By Koichi Yamasuki



JERRY LAWLER
vs.
TATSUMI FUJINAMI



This match was for Fujinami's IWGP heavyweight title. Although he was in a ring far from home, Lawler wrestled very well, using his famous fistdrop to full advantage and surprising Fujinami on several occasions. Fujinami, however, was well-prepared for "The King's" challenge. After 20 minutes of intense action, Fujinami pinned Lawler following a flying elbowsmash.

OTHER BOUTS: Strong Machine & George Takano defeated Masa Saito & Riki Choshu ... Hiroshi Hase beat Shiro Koshinaka ... Shunji Goto, Kengo Kimura, & Sakaguchi defeated Avalanche, Ron Starr, & Vicious Warrior ... Hiro Saito beat Mike Fleming ... Don Arakawa defeated Black Cat ... Antonio Inoki beat Fujiwara.

GREENSBORO, NC By Brian Williams



LEX LUGER
vs.
STEVE WILLIAMS



U.S. champion Lex Luger faced a tremendous challenge in Williams, who may be the strongest man in the sport. Luger's biggest problem would be countering the interference of Williams' manager, Kevin Sullivan. The two powerful athletes chopped and punched each other ferociously. Of course, Sullivan did try to get involved, but his interference backfired, allowing Luger to score the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Dan Spivey pinned Ron Simmons ... Eddie Gilbert pinned Kevin Sullivan ... Kendall Windham drew with Vince Young ... Dick Murdoch beat Abdullah the Butcher by DQ ... Sting pinned Butch Reed ... The Iron Sheik beat Steven Casey ... The Samoan Swat Team beat The Midnight Express.



Matt Brock's PLAIN SPEAKING

ROCHESTER, MN: It's been one hell of a month. WrestleMania V press conferences, exciting Steamboat-Flair rematches in the NWA, and other major stories. As usual, I spent most of my time in my car traveling the country while all that other stuff was going on. Wait until Saks gets the bill for my new engine; the old Valiant blew up in some small town in Minnesota. Anyway, I'm kind of glad I got stuck



"DIAMOND" DALLAS PAGE & BAD COMPANY

where I did. I just happened to be in attendance for a historic night of AWA action on March 25 here in Rochester. The new tag team of Ken Patera and Brad Rheingans, now known as The Olympians, defeated Bad Company, Pat Tanaka and Paul Diamond, for the AWA World tag team championship in front of an enthusiastic crowd. This is a big story for a lot of reasons. First, Patera and Rheingans, who each had been lost in career limbo for more than a year, rebounded to score one of the most surprising AWA victories in years—and they did it without needing an official verdict from the AWA

president, which is pretty refreshing. Also, Tanaka and Diamond had just celebrated their first anniversary as champions when they were defeated. But the biggest rumor in the AWA is that Tanaka and Diamond are reportedly having some second thoughts about hiring "Diamond" Dallas Page as their manager. After all, when they defeated The Midnight Rockers for the championship last year, they hadn't even hired Page yet. Lately, Page has been spending a lot of his time managing U.S. Steel down in Florida, and Tanaka and Diamond have had enough of being ignored. Why shouldn't they? Over the past year, they've established themselves as one of the sport's finest duos, capable of winning matches either by brawling or by using scientific tactics. If you ask me, men of this caliber don't need a manager. Let Page take his Diamond Dolls someplace else. Tanaka and Diamond can succeed on their own.

STUART, FL: With all the megacards over the past few months, you would think attendance at independent cards would be in sorry shape, right? Guess again. A crowd of about 2,000 insatiable fans turned out to see the "Original" Sheik return to action for



BUGSY McGRAW VS. THE SHEIK

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

the Central Wrestling Federation at the Martin County Fair. I had assumed this Arabian madman was ready for the rest home, but was I ever wrong. He's getting up in years, but he seems to be twice as vicious than he was in his prime. His opponent on this night was Bugsy McGraw, and it looked to be a classic battle of crazy men, but I don't think Bugsy had any idea about the Sheik's reputation. Sheik began the festivities by breaking a speaker over Bugsy's head, and next produced some kind of a shiv, which he used to slice Bugsy's head to ribbons. McGraw battled back valiantly, but a Sheik fireball to the face ended his evening early. It was remarkable, but I don't know if I enjoyed watching this very much. The Sheik was responsible for the longest reign of terror in wrestling history, from the late '60s to the middle '70s. I thought he should have been banned for life back then because of his raw sadism, and age has only made him worse. I still say he should thrown out of wrestling for life. Wrestling doesn't need this kind of violence.

ATLANTA, GA: As luck would have it, my car broke down again right before a Flair-Steamboat rematch at the Omni. While I was haggling over the price of an alternator with some cigar-chomping grease monkey, the champion and the former champion were engaging in one of the best matches of the year, so I'm told. However, while I was in Georgia, I got word that Jim Cornette and his Midnight Express, Stan Lane and Bobby Eaton, had left the NWA. Reportedly, their contract was up on April 15, and the negotiations to renew did not meet their wishes both in terms of money and future match assignments. To my eyes, this loss is bigger to the NWA than losing Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard, or even Dusty Rhodes. Lane and Eaton are the finest tag team in wrestling. I've never been a big fan of Jim Cornette—or any manager, for that matter—but in the last few months, he's changed the Midnights from just another team of brawlers to one of the most popular in NWA history. So how did the NWA make up for this loss? By announcing a series of matches where The Road Warriors defend their NWA World tag team title against the team of Junkyard Dog and Ron Simmons. Why didn't we



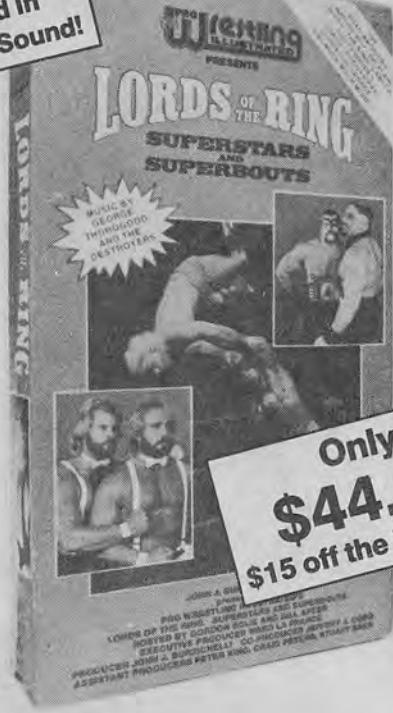
THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS

see the Midnights try to regain the title from the Road Warriors instead? If I were an NWA official, I'd do everything in my power to get Stan and Bobby back before they sign anywhere else.

TOKYO, JAPAN: The talk of the Orient is that big card featuring Russian amateur wrestlers going against professionals from Japan and the United States, scheduled for April 24 at the Tokyo Dome. So far, it looks like a host of top U.S. grapplers will be there. Already scheduled are Brad Rheingans, Buzz Sawyer, Leon White, Bam Bam Bigelow, The Southern Boys, and Lou Thesz as a special referee. The Japanese team will consist of legends like Antonio Inoki, Masa Chono, Tatsumi Fujinami, Riki Choshu, and several members of the Japanese Olympic teams of the past several years. Wrestlers from both these countries will be taking on the finest wrestlers from the Soviet Union, hopefully in a strictly scientific fashion. Reportedly, ESPN and NBC are interested in covering the event, and rightfully so. I hope the event proves that pro wrestling can be the best source of detente in the sports world. For too long, wrestlers have used our sport as a sounding board for their own political beliefs. Now, wrestlers are starting to realize that this sport can be used as a springboard for world peace. What could be better than that? □

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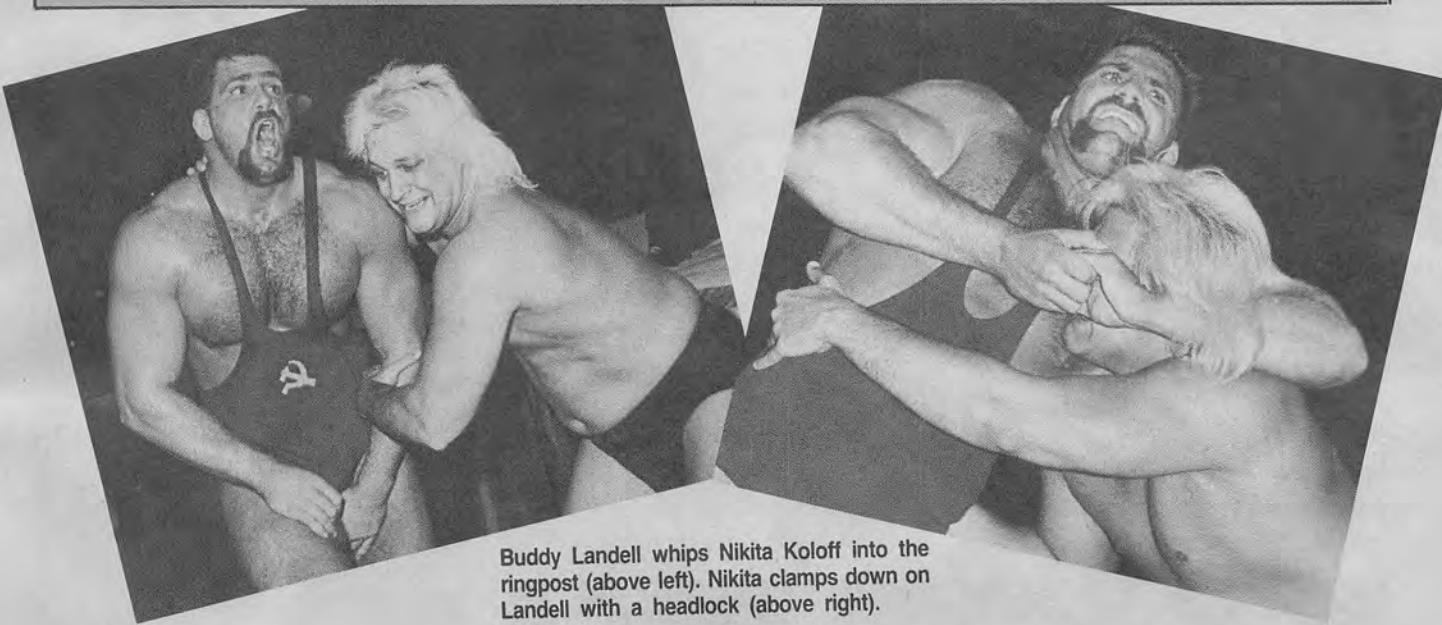
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★Nikita! ★Landell! ★Garvin!
★Fantastics! ★Morton!

EX★NWA STARS SHINE ON!



Buddy Landell whips Nikita Koloff into the ringpost (above left). Nikita clamps down on Landell with a headlock (above right).

"IT TAKES QUITE an offer to get me to wrestle these days," said Nikita Koloff, who recently left the sport to be with his wife, who is suffering from Hodgkin's disease. "But they gave me a chance to get my hands on Buddy Landell again. There was no way I could miss this."

If someone were to tell a wrestling fan that Koloff, Landell, Manny Fer-

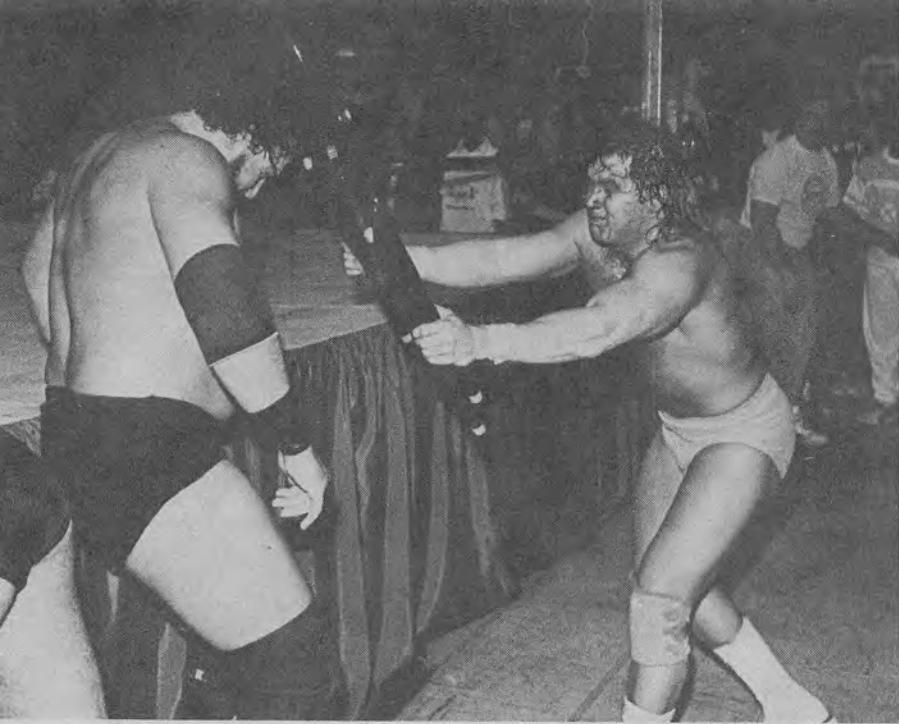
By Liz Hunter

nandez, "Gorgeous" Jimmy Garvin, The Fantastics, and Rick Morton were all appearing on the same card, he'd probably assume the NWA had put together some of their best talent for yet another spectacular Chinatown Rumble or Starrcade event.

Amazingly, that's not what hap-

pened—at least not this time. This roster of stars, all championship-caliber wrestlers, are not affiliated with the NWA at present. These wrestlers competed in the first card presented by the North Carolina Wrestling Federation in the small city of Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina. It was in this most unlikely of places that these former NWA stars proved they still

It was "only" an independent card, but with wrestlers like Nikita Koloff, The Fantastics, and Rick Morton on the bill, it looked more like an NWA all-star spectacular. These wrestlers proved that even though they're out of the major leagues, they're all still major talents



Bobby Fulton uses a steel chair against Outlaw Hoss Deaton (above). Outlaw Joel Deaton hammers away on Fulton (right). The Outlaws and The Fantastics battled furiously to a 30-minute draw.



have what it takes to perform at the highest level of competition.

"Man, this is a severe case of *deja vu*," marveled Garvin, who hasn't competed in the NWA since last fall. "I look over here, and I see Nikita. I look over there, and I see Rick Morton. With all these great wrestlers, it's hard to believe this is an independent card, isn't it?"

It was also hard to believe that Koloff had taken so much time off. Looking as strong and fit as ever, the transplanted Russian has been forced out of action because he

wants to spend as much time as he can with his wife, Mandy, who has been in and out of several hospitals battling her Hodgkin's. It was a touching scene as Garvin, Morton, Tommy Rogers, and Bobby Fulton gathered around Koloff when he appeared in the locker room, exchanging hugs and handshakes.

"It is good to know that I have these American friends," said Koloff with a smile. "It will be good to be in the ring again, too. I want to see if I have lost any of my skills. It will also be good to get my hands on



In a wildly violent contest, Manny Fernandez rams a chair into Rick Morton's throat (left). After the action returns to the ring, Fernandez continues the carnage with a boot to the neck (above).

Landell once again. I return his favor from years ago."

Landell doubted that Koloff would even appear for their match. "He's nothing but a Russian coward," said the veteran rulebreaker. "I beat the stuffings out of him when he was just a rookie, and I'm sure I can still handle him today. I'll bet he loses his nerve and won't even bother to show up. I'll probably end up wrestling against some prelim bum—not that Koloff's much better than that, anyway."

Landell would soon eat his words. The fans exploded in adulation as the Russian made his way to the ring. "It is good to know the fans haven't forgotten me," said Koloff. "I was a little worried about my ability this time, since I have not wrestled in many months."

Koloff had little reason to be fearful. He dominated Landell for the majority of the match, and delivered a Russian sickle at the 17-minute mark to earn a well-deserved victory. This was only one of two long-dormant feuds that were rekindled during this card.

Manny Fernandez and Rick Morton went toe to toe in a singles match, and the intensity level equaled their famous feud in 1986 and 1987. During those years, Fernandez and Rick Rude battled Morton and Robert Gibson, The Rock 'n' Roll Express, as the teams traded the NWA World tag team title.

"I hated those guys then, and I hate 'em even more now," complained Fernandez, currently one of the top contenders for the AWA World title. "Those two little twerps stole those World title belts from us, and I haven't forgotten it for one minute. I'm gonna show Morton that pretty boy punks *still* don't cut it against the 'Ragin' Bull!'"

True to form, Fernandez threw the rulebook out the window as soon as the opening bell rang. But Morton prepared well for the match, stunning his larger opponent with several aerial maneuvers.

"Fat ol' Manny just likes to shoot off his mouth," said Morton after the



The Ultimate Russian works over "Gorgeous" Jim Garvin's arm (above), but Garvin quickly responds in kind (below). Garvin pinned his foe in just six minutes.



match. "Rude and him were never any match for us two years ago, and I can still wipe the mat with that Mexican. But it sure was a wild one, wasn't it?"

Both Morton and Fernandez were disqualified after 22 minutes of brawling, some of which took place outside the ring. In other matches, Garvin, on the mend from a serious leg injury, destroyed The Ultimate Russian in only six minutes. In the longest bout of the evening, The Fantastics wrestled to a 30-minute double-disqualification with Joel and Hoss Deaton, who have established themselves as one of the finest teams in the Southern Champion-

ship and Atlantic Coast areas.

In all, it was a great evening of action that surprised and delighted the fans in attendance. The former NWA stars on the card proved that independent wrestling cards can be as exciting as those presented by the major organizations.

"Don't ever sell these kind of cards short," said Fulton. "Every couple of years, Tommy and I test our skills by wrestling outside the major organizations. The competition is ferocious, and the fans are great. You'd call this an *independent* card? No way, baby—this was as good as any card anywhere—and just as much fun!"



Kerry Von Erich's
Shocking
Confession

"I CAN'T COUNT ON MY BROTHER ANYMORE!"

By Bob Smith

LOOK OUT, BABY!" yelled Brickhouse Brown. "Here it comes!"

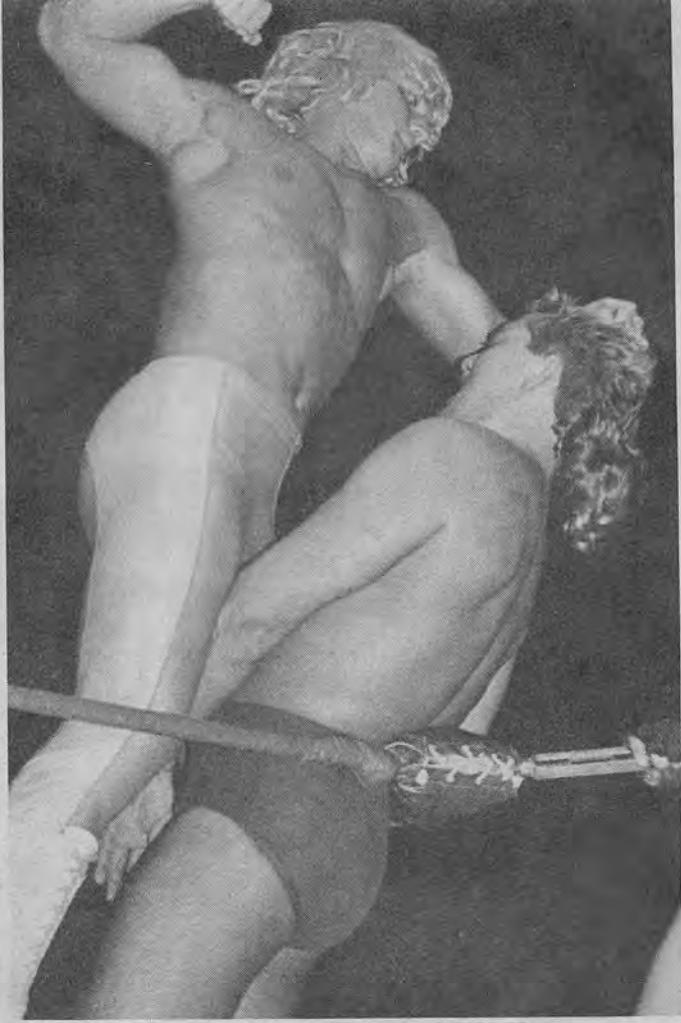
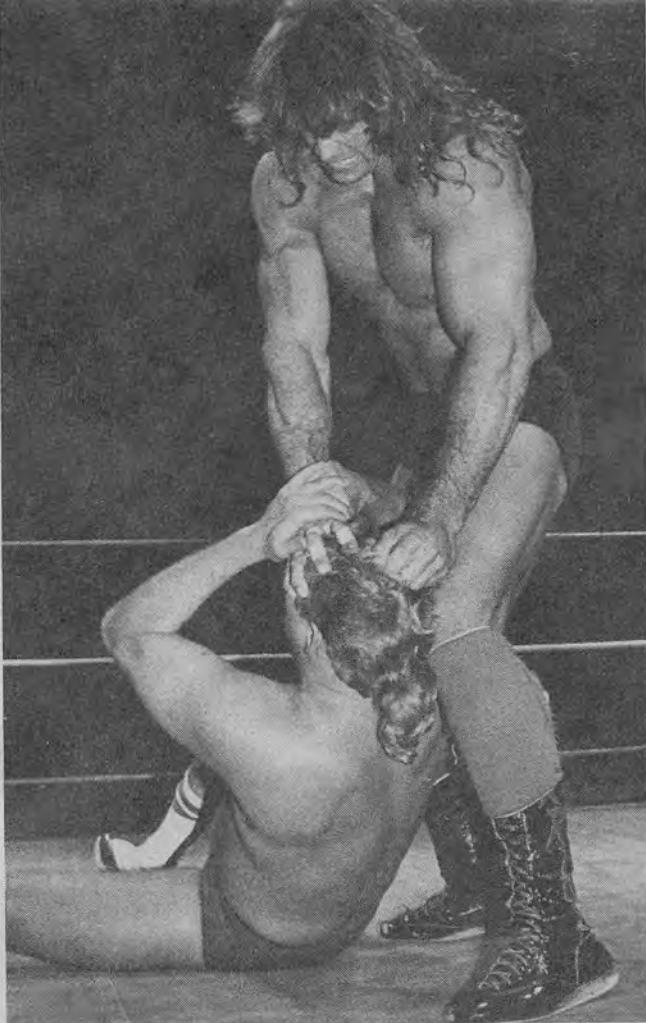
With that, the Texas champion uncorked a bottle of champagne and dumped its contents over Jeff

Jarrett's head. Jarrett and Kerry Von Erich had just defeated Robert Fuller and Jimmy Golden to win the World Class tag team championship. Rulebreakers have dominated the World Class tag

team scene for months, but now the Sportatorium's east locker room was once again the scene of a celebration.

Soon, Jimmy Jack Funk, Percy Pringle, and Cpl. Braddock joined

Brothers and tag team partners, Kevin and Kerry Von Erich's pairing has been grounded by Kevin's health problems. Though Kerry has found a new championship partner in Jeff Jarrett, getting used to life without Kevin may be the toughest battle of his career!



Kerry Von Erich clamps the clawhold on Jimmy Golden (above left) and Jeff Jarrett follows up with a corner attack (above right). Kerry and Jarrett have become close friends and a top tag team (below) in the wake of Kevin Von Erich having cut back on his active competition.

in the fun. After only a few minutes, the dressing room became a raucous mess. It seemed like any one of hundreds of championship celebrations, but this one was slightly different: One of the new champions didn't feel like participating.

After the revelry was over, Jarrett sat down next to Von Erich, who had been sitting quietly in front of his locker reading fan mail, totally oblivious to the victory party.

"What's the matter, champ?" asked Jarrett, trying to cheer up his partner. "We trashed The Stud Stable tonight. Why so somber?"

Von Erich managed a slight smile as he looked at his friend. He was silent for a moment before giving Jarrett the reason for his gloomy demeanor.

"No problem, buddy," said Von Erich. "It's really great to win an-



other title, and you're the best partner a man could have. But you've got to understand that I'm used to tagging with my brother. It's gonna take me a while to get it through my head that Kevin won't always be by my side. You see, I can't count on Kevin anymore."

Together, Kevin and Kerry Von Erich have been one of the greatest tag teams in the history of Texas wrestling. They've been the one duo fans could depend upon against whomever was terrorizing World Class. Now, according to Kerry, the team is no more.

"Please take this the right way, Jeff," Kerry pleaded. "It's just that I'm used to having Kevin with me no matter what. Whether it was a singles or a tag team title, we were always there to support each other. But now, Kevin can't always be here. He has more important things to worry about in his life."

Indeed, Kevin has drastically curtailed his wrestling schedule. Last fall, Kevin had to be hospitalized because of post-concussion syndrome, a painful affliction caused by injuries suffered during his high school football career. Af-

(Continued on page 54)

MEGAPO

IT'S TIME FOR STING AND ULTIMATE WARRIOR TO REUNITE!



By Dave Rosenbaum

STING MADE HIS way back to the locker room, but he seemed oddly different than usual. Usually he'll shake hands and deliver high-fives to the fans as he leaves ring-side after a victory, but this time he chose to stroll, slowly and silently, back to the dressing room area.

Once he reached his locker, he

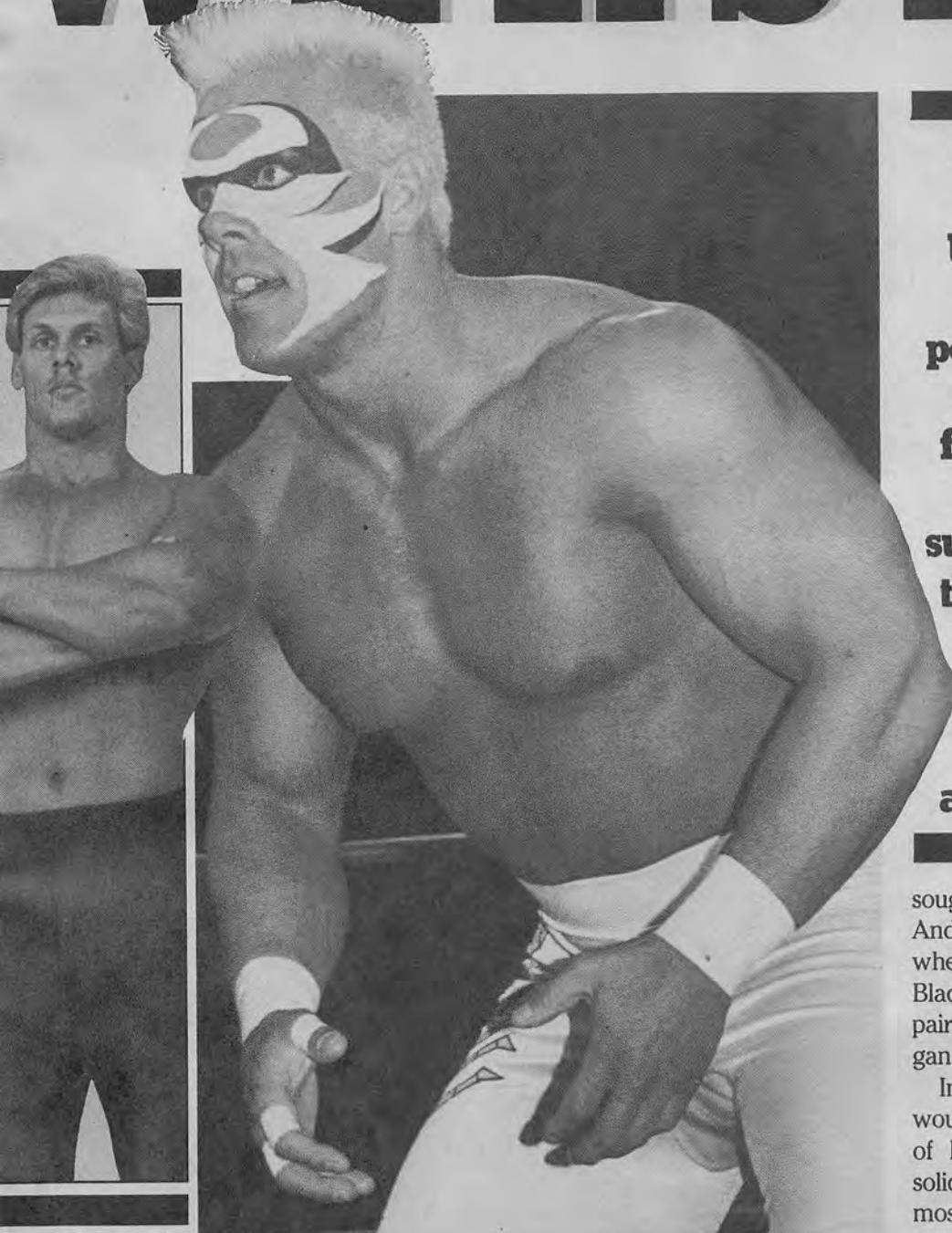
exploded in a rage of frustration. He tore both his boots from his feet and hurled them into the shower, sending lathered-up wrestlers running for cover. He rubbed his face makeup all over his upper body. Shaking with tension, he pulled at his hair and let out a bloodcurdling scream: "OOOOOWWWWWW!"

Is Sting losing his mind? Not really. His howls of aggression were

caused by a lack of meaningful matches during his past few months in the NWA.

"Butch Reed again," complained Sting as he finally settled down. "Don't get me wrong—that guy is a terrific competitor. But I've beat him so many times I'm starting to see him in my sleep. Damn it, it's really getting frustrating being a fan favorite these days."

WRESTLERS II?



Don't worry. Sting isn't contemplating becoming a rulebreaker again. But with Rick Steamboat as the NWA World champion and Lex Luger, one of his closest friends, as the U.S. champion, it doesn't leave much in the way of titles for an ambitious young superstar to shoot for.

"I've gotta get a game plan goin' here," Sting said. "I can't keep

treading water like this. I've got too much goin' for me not to make a big impression in this sport. Look at my old partner. I'll bet he's havin' a better time than I am right now."

Sting's old partner was a young man by the name of Rock—now known as The Ultimate Warrior. Sting realizes that the Warrior's tenure as WWF Intercontinental champion has made him one of the most

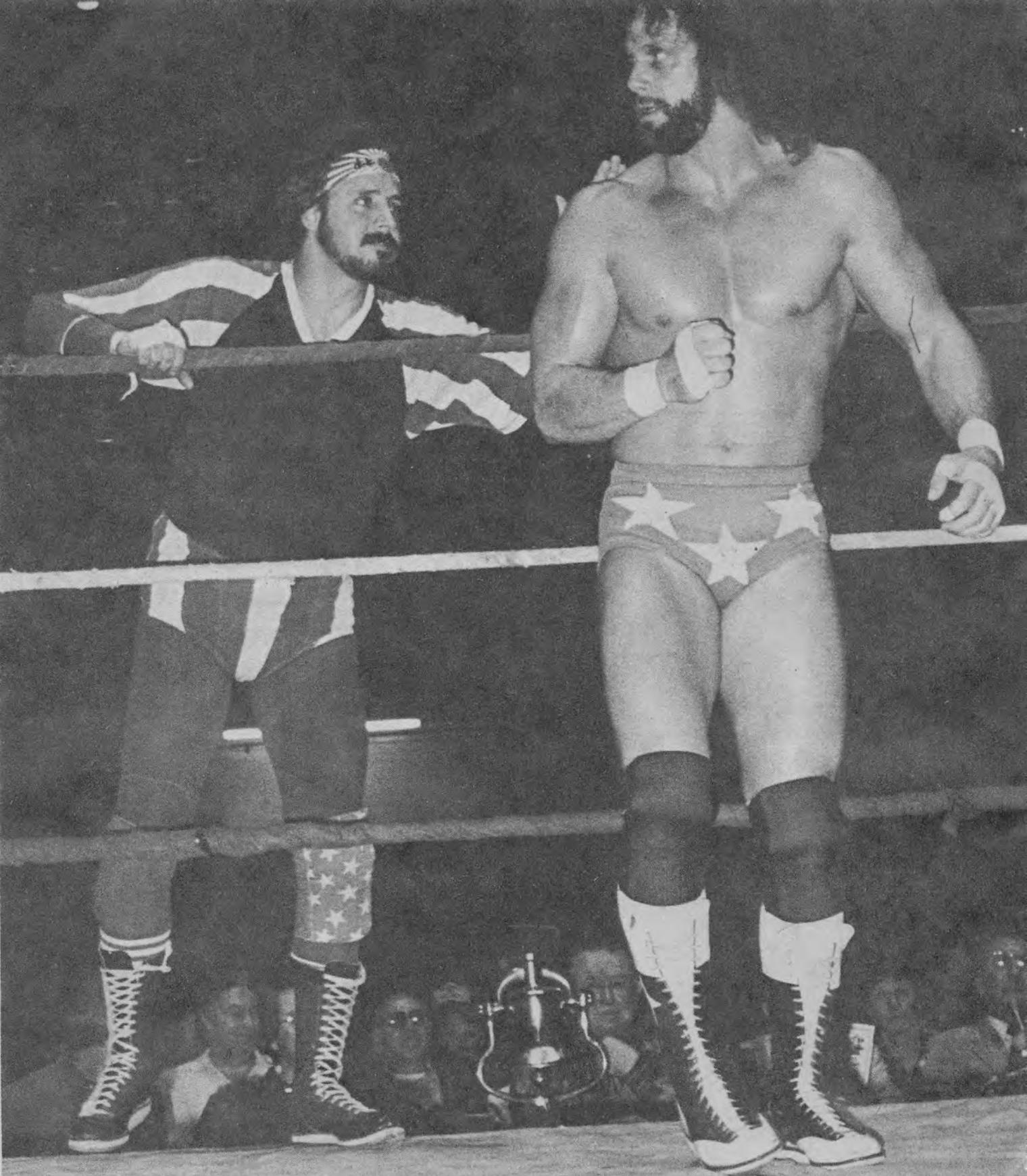
Four years ago, Sting and The Ultimate Warrior were a raw but powerful new entry in the tag team field. Today, both are established superstars. Imagine the impact if these two megastars decided to become a unit once again!

sought-after wrestlers in the world. And he can't help but wonder whether a reformation of The Blade Runners would be the biggest pairing of superstars since Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage.

In fact, a Sting-Warrior tag team would certainly qualify for the title of Megapowers II. Both men are solidly entrenched as two of the most popular stars in the sport. And there would certainly be no lack of titles for them to strive for.

"That's just what I need—a sense of purpose," said Sting. "I'll never be content just to win wrestling matches for the hell of it. I was born to be on the top of the heap, and there's not another team in wrestling that could beat me and the Rock."

A reformation of this particular
(Continued on page 62)



**IS JIMMY HART RANDY SAVAGE'S
SECRET MANAGER?**

Although Elizabeth doesn't manage him anymore, Randy "Macho Man" Savage is still in serious need of guidance. For help, he turned to Jimmy Hart, *Inside Wrestling* has learned. Is Hart actually managing Savage? Nobody is confirming it, but nobody is denying it, either!

By Andy Rodriguez

MEMPHIS, 1984: Randy "Macho Man" Savage is thrashing another pitiable opponent. Savage's manager, Jimmy Hart, shouts instructions from ringside, though on this night Savage doesn't need any help. When Hart gives the signal, Savage mounts the top turnbuckle and pounces with a perfectly placed flying axhandle. Just after the referee makes the three-count, Hart jumps into the ring and raises Savage's hand in victory.

NEW YORK, 1989: The Ultimate Warrior is dominating WWF World champion Savage. Warrior's powerful chops and punches are wearing down the durable champion. Warrior seems on the verge of winning when his archrival, "Ravishing" Rick Rude, comes to ringside and begins taunting and distracting him. The Warrior leaps out of the ring and chases Rude. Savage seizes the opportunity. He hits the Warrior from behind and slides back into the ring. The Warrior is counted out and Savage's hand is raised in victory.

Two unrelated incidents, it would seem. Two victories, five years apart, for Randy Savage.

But these two matches are tied together by more than the "Macho Man's" formidable ring skills. Back in 1984, Hart not only managed Savage, he managed Rude, too. Along with King Kong Bundy, they were the most feared rulebreaking troika in the Mid-Southern area, a constant threat to Jerry "The King" Lawler's preeminence.

Though Hart and his men were



Jimmy Hart was Randy Savage's manager of record in the Mid-Southern area in 1984 (opposite page). In recent years, the two have been at odds (above left). When Savage wrestled The Ultimate Warrior (above right), however, he received help from Rick Rude (below), who also was once managed by Hart.



a close-knit group, there was always a certain amount of tension between Hart and Savage. The "Macho Man" believed his manager was holding him back, submerging his personal goals in favor of team goals. Publicly, Savage professed his loyalty; in his heart, however, he wanted more.

Hart's practice of sending Rude and Bundy into the ring to attack Lawler led to the Savage-Hart breakup. Tired of seeing Lawler taken advantage of (and tired of his relationship with Hart), Savage helped "The King" fight off the assault. His best athlete against him, Hart had little reason to re-

(Continued on page 58)

HOTSEAT

BARRY WINDHAM

"Losing The U.S. Title Was A Blessing!"

*I*T WAS ONE of four title matches during the February 20 Chi-Town Rumble, but that didn't dilute its impact. It looked like it had come to an end when U.S. champion Barry Windham, wrestling brilliantly despite a cracked right wrist, delivered a devastating belly-to-back suplex to a weakened Lex Luger.

As Windham bridged and held Luger to the mat, referee Tommy Young delivered a three-count. Although he was nearly unconscious, Luger had enough sense to lift his left shoulder before Young's hand pounded the mat the third time. Windham had, in fact, pinned himself, and Luger was declared the new champ.

It was sweet revenge for Luger, as Windham had turned against him and joined The Four Horsemen 10 months earlier. It was a bitter defeat for Windham, but it was also a signal to take a close look at his career and his future. Now, instead of striving to regain the U.S. belt, Windham wants to win the NWA World title. He's demanded a title shot against current champ Rick Steamboat, but his recent comments have shocked many wrestling experts. Windham wants a title match

even if Ric Flair should regain the belt!

Although the NWA has yet to announce World title matches featuring Windham, the 6'5" Texan, now fully recovered from his wrist injury, continues to lobby for his opportunity. Assistant Editor Bob Smith caught up with Windham before a recent match in Philadelphia, where he interviewed the young superstar about the most important mission of his exceptional career.

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I think I'm long overdue to win the World heavyweight title, and that's what I'm going after right now.

”

Q: Barry, I haven't spoken to you since I joined you and your family for Thanksgiving. A lot of things have happened since November.

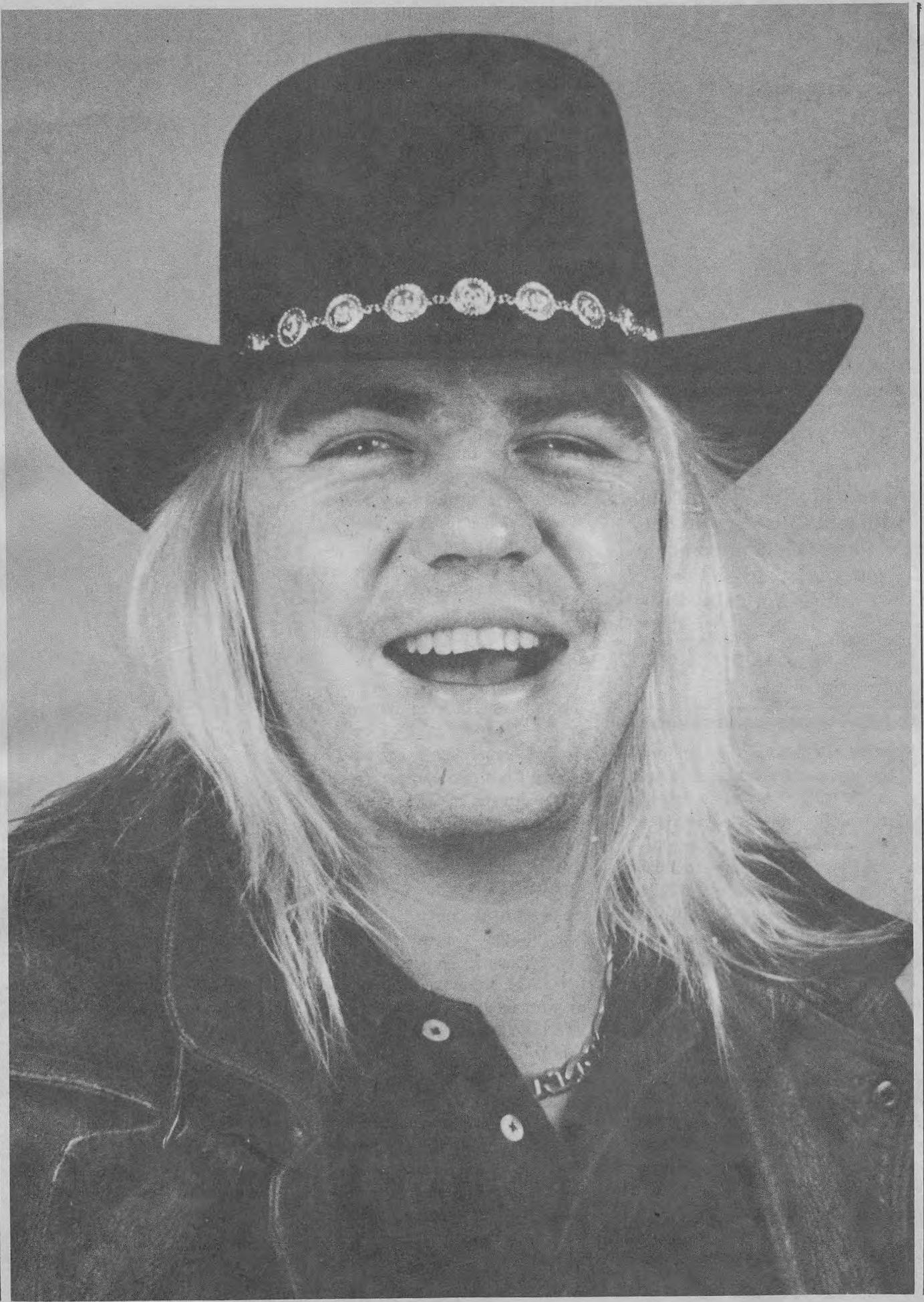
A: Right, Thanksgiving. By the way, you're not welcome next year, pal. We usually enjoy leftovers the day after, but you cleared off that table like a vacuum cleaner. We even had to eat Chinese the next day, you porker.

Q: Very funny. Can we get back to wrestling? You seem to have bounced back from your defeat at the hands of Luger pretty nicely. In what ways has losing the U.S. title affected you?

A: It hasn't affected me at all, even though I have grounds to complain. It was a typical bogus decision from Tommy Young, and now Luger thinks he's the biggest thing since sliced cheese. But I can handle it. For me, I'm pretty glad I lost that belt. In fact, losing the U.S. title was a blessing.

Q: Uh, did I miss something here?

A: You probably did, so let me spell it out for you, genius. I held the U.S. title for almost a year, and I steamrolled over all the competition they put in front of me. Nikita Koloff, Bam Bam Bigelow, Rick Steiner; everybody they wanted to make U.S. champion fell in defeat at my talented





“

If I caught [Rick Steamboat] with a bodypress from the top rope, they'd be scraping pineapple juice off the canvas for days.

”

hands. In a way, that belt was like a noose around my neck. As far as the NWA was concerned, my only objective should've been to defend the U.S. strap—but I've got much bigger ambitions than that, Bobby. I think I'm long overdue to win the *World* heavyweight title, and that's what I'm going after right now.

Q: Do you think you have a realistic chance at beating Rick Steamboat? He's never looked better than he has the past few months.

A: You asked that question backwards, pal. You should have asked me if Steamboat has a realistic chance at beating *me*. I agree that he's at the top of his game, but so am I. I really believe that I'm the best I've ever been at this moment in time.

And after my long stint as U.S. champ, I should be granted a World title match on demand. So far the promoters haven't given me one yet, but that's where my new manager, Hiro Matsuda, is supposed to come in. My winning record is a big reason why he's making all that money for his Yamasaki Corporation.

Q: Speaking of Matsuda, he's also the manager of Ric Flair. You and the former World champion are the last remnants of The Four Horsemen. What would happen if Flair won the title back? It's been rumored that you would still want a title shot if that were the case.

A: That's absolutely true. I've reached the stage in my career where I have to strive for the top. I don't care if Flair, or Steamboat, or Matsuda himself is holding that World belt. It's my obligation to myself, my family, and my fans to win that title.

Q: Your *fans*? I haven't heard you mention the fans in almost a year.

A: Well, I realize that every time I wrestle I hear quite a few cheers. Those are the *real* Barry Windham fans. Some wrestling fans do whatever the supposed fan favorites tell them to do. On the other hand, there are other members of the public who realize who the best wrestlers are. Those people tend to be my fans. Why not make them happy by winning the NWA title?

Q: I guess that makes sense. You've also gotten some moral support recently from a long-lost source: your brother, Kendall.

A: Isn't that great? Kendall is at the stage now where I was five years ago, which only makes sense since I started in the pros about five years before he did. He's really started to come into his own since I've been teaming with him.



It's Barry Windham's claw vs. Lex Luger's muscular arms in this remarkable test of strength at the Chi-Town Rumble (above). Windham catches the "Total Package" in a thundering suplex (below).



Q: I'll say. A lot of people are saying that they can't tell the two of you apart when you tag together.

A: Well, well. What bigger compliment could there be? Now, since he's been learning some of the Windham tricks of the trade, he's going to start to make a splash as a singles wrestler while I go after the World belt. You are right this time, Bobby—with that kind of support I know I can't lose.

Q: I've got my doubts. Could you stand up to the intensity of a match that pitted you against Flair, who has been your biggest ally over the past year? I'm sure that situation would cause a lot of friction between you, Matsuda, and Flair.

A: (pauses) Maybe it would, maybe it wouldn't. Frankly, I think Flair is enough of a professional to be able to accept my challenge. He's the greatest champion in the history of the NWA, and he's as classy as he is successful. On top of that, a Flair-Windham title match could be the biggest box office draw of the century. They could bill it as the battle of the Horsemen, or whatever they'd wanna do with it. As for Matsuda, he does whatever we tell him to, anyway. Don't get me wrong. I don't relish the idea of asking Flair for a title match. But if that's what I'll have to do, I will.

Q: And we're being pretty premature here anyway, since Steamboat is still the champion, and a great one at that. What will your battle plan be when you get your match against him?

A: Well, Steamboat throws a lot of

his opponents off-guard because of his aerial ability. Well, big deal! I can do the same thing. He can leap from the top rope, but I'm bigger and heavier than he is. If I caught him with a bodypress from the top rope, they'd be scraping pineapple juice off the canvas for days.

Q: There's a lot more to Steamboat than just his aerial attack. He's also got blazing speed, exceptional endurance, and a wealth of karate skills.

A: Well, karate is supposed to be illegal. And as for those other attributes, I think I can top him. He's quick, but I'm faster. He can go all night, and I can, too. I learned a long time ago that you don't worry about your opponent's offense—you have to worry about your own *defense*. And there's no better defensive wrestler than me. Look at the match against Luger. He emerged as the winner on a fluke, but I beat the stuffings out of that guy for 10 minutes, and I negated his offense while doing it. *That's* the mark of a championship-caliber wrestler.

Q: Perhaps that's so. But the NWA promoters haven't rushed to give



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I should be the NWA World champion by the time this magazine hits the stands.

”

you a World title shot, have they?

A: Once again, they're proving their ignorance. But like I said, I've got Matsuda on the case already. I should be the NWA World champion by the time this magazine hits the stands.

Q: Barry, I've got one last question for you. Do you have any regrets about turning into a rule-breaker? Do you really think it has benefited your career?

A: I don't look at my career that way. It's like my daddy, Blackjack Mulligan, told me when I first started wrestling: Do what you've got to do, but never let anyone push you around. Nobody ever has, and nobody ever will. That's why I've been a champion, and that's why I'm gonna be the World champion. Count on it. □



Windham's flying clothesline drops Luger to the mat, but Luger would rally to defeat Barry and win his U.S. title.

Demolition



As Warlord immobilizes Demolition Ax, Mr. Fuji rams his cane into his solar plexus.



After Barbarian misses Ax with an awe-inspiring bodypress (above), the Demolition member retaliates by trying to twist his neck off his shoulders (below).



AX CAN'T BREATHE. His eyes are bulging from their war-painted sockets as The Warlord pushes his throat against the top rope.

Meanwhile, The Barbarian can't stand up. Smash has wrapped his foe's leg around the ringpost, and he's repeatedly ramming Barbarian's knee into the hard steel. From behind, the Powers' manager, Mr. Fuji, blasts Smash on the back of the head with his steel cane, sending the huge wrestler reeling into the protective railing outside the ring.

It's just another night at the office for Demolition and The Powers of Pain. The matches between these two massive teams have been the most brutal bouts seen in WWF rings this year. The federation's World tag team title hangs in the balance—but that's only part of the reason for the carnage. The winners of this war will not only be the World champions of the WWF, they'll be the world champions of violence as well.

Both Demolition and the Powers want to be known as the biggest, strongest, most fearsome team in the WWF. At a combined weight of 655 pounds, Warlord and Barbarian have a slight edge in power over Ax and Smash, who check in at 585 pounds. But the biggest reason for the animosity that exists between these teams is the man who has managed them both: Mr. Fuji.

It was this past Thanksgiving when Fuji showed his devious nature at the Survivor Series. The veteran Japanese manager shocked a national television audience by turning against Ax and

vs. Powers Of Pain:

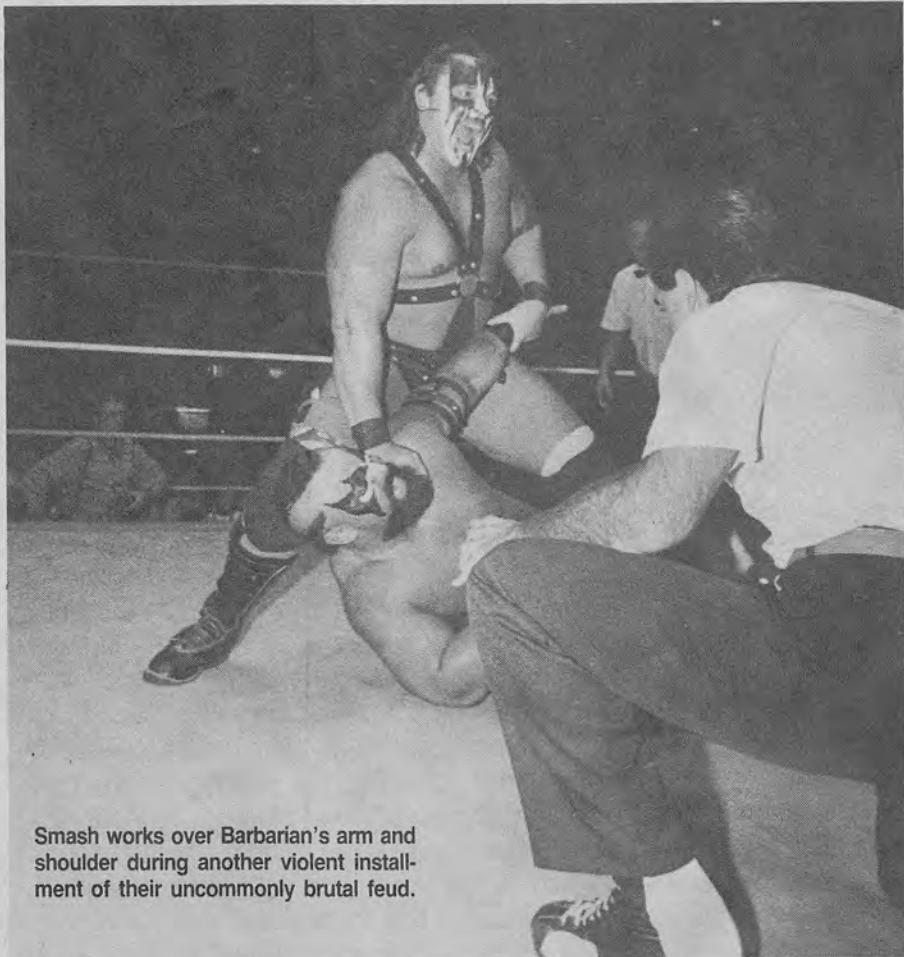
WORLD CHAMPIONS OF VIOLENCE!

By Matt Brock

Smash following his team's count-out loss. Fuji actually caused Smash to be counted out of the match, as he pulled down the top rope as Smash was being hurled from the ring. Ax and Smash then pummeled Fuji, but the biggest surprise was that Warlord and Barbarian helped Fuji to his feet and led him to *their* corner!

In the blink of an eye, Fuji's allegiance switched from Demolition to the Powers. His actions at the Survivor Series were a conscious attempt to lead Ax and Smash to an embarrassing loss. This came from the same man who had led them to the WWF World tag team title eight months earlier! He had already agreed to manage Warlord and Barbarian, and he had played his former team for fools.

"You just gotta love that Fuji," laughed Johnny Valiant, who sold the contracts of Demolition to Fuji shortly after Ax and Smash made their WWF debuts in 1987. "That



Smash works over Barbarian's arm and shoulder during another violent installment of their uncommonly brutal feud.

For months, Ax and Smash have battled Warlord and Barbarian in a series of shockingly brutal matches. Whoever emerges as the winner of the Demolition-Powers of Pain feud will not only win the WWF World tag team title, they'll be the champions of sadism!



Barbarian's devastating flying shoulderblock drops Ax to the mat. It doesn't really matter who holds the WWF World tag team belts—this feud is being waged to determine the WWF World champions of violence!

man didn't get to be a five-time World tag team champion for nothing. He always wants to be the best, and that's what the Powers are. They're probably the most powerful team in wrestling today. Ax and Smash are big guys, but they aren't nearly as brutal as Fuji's men."

Another manager doesn't agree. Baron Von Raschke, who managed the Powers for a short time last summer, thinks Fuji made an error by abandoning the champions.

"What a mistake," said Von Raschke. "The Powers somehow got it through their heads that they needed the most evil man they could find to manage them. I

certainly couldn't fill the bill, because I've been trying to abide by the rules during the past several years. But Demolition has more talent than Fuji gives them credit for. They've managed to hold those World belts for four months after Fuji turned against them. That says a lot for their ability."

Not to mention their brutality. Both teams are battling each other like their lives depend on it. At a recent match in Toledo, Ohio, they tore at each other like animals even before the opening bell sounded. Ax battled Barbarian inside the ring, while Warlord rendered Smash immobile by beating him with a chair outside the ropes. When Fuji hit Ax in the

head with his cane a few minutes later, he earned a disqualification for his team.

Even though the final bell sounded, things didn't end there. Smash gained control of the chair and brought it down hard on top of Warlord's head. He then stormed the ring, running off Fuji and Barbarian. Both teams screamed insults at each other as they made their way back to the dressing room.

That's the way it has usually gone in these matches. Those expecting a scientific struggle between these two massive teams have come to the wrong arena. After months of battling with nothing but bandages and splints to show for it, the Powers challenged Demolition to a two-on-three match at several arenas across the country. Ax and Smash immediately accepted the challenge, but little has changed. There's always an explosion when these teams face each other.

Which duo will end up as the eventual winner—and as WWF World tag team champions?

"It's the Powers for sure, baby," insists Valiant. "They got the edge in viciousness. The Demos will never be able to stand up to them."

"Demolition will emerge victorious," claims Von Raschke. "They'll prove that Fuji isn't the genius everyone makes him out to be."

Regardless of who wins this war, it looks like it's only just beginning. Big Bossman and Akeem, whose combined weight is 816 pounds, have challenged whomever wins, so the likely next step will be the massive Twin Towers against the WWF World tag team champions—and even more head-busting and bone-breaking.

Stay tuned for the second movement of this symphony of sadism, coming soon to an arena near you. □

BACK ISSUES OF



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August 1982/COLOR PINUP: Dino Bravo, Steamboat & Rich, Andre, Martel, Piper, Blasie.

January 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ken Patera, Rick Steamboat, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Putski, Rhodes vs. Garvin, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

April 1983/COLOR PINUP: Superstar Graham, Mil Mascaras, Valentine, Orn-dorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR PINUP: Cowboy Bob Orton, Rick Martel, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

July 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Koloff, Tommy Rich, Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

August 1983/COLOR PINUP: Larry Zbyszko, Roddy Piper, Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

October 1983/COLOR PINUP: Junky Dog, Tommy Rich, Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

November 1983/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper, Harley Race, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR PINUP: Wahoo McDaniel, Dusty Rhodes, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

January 1984/COLOR PINUP: Harley Race, Rick Martel, Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Sunshine, Greg Valentine, Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

June 1984/COLOR PINUP: Dick Slater, Ted DiBiase, Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering, Jimmy Valiant, JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

August 1984/COLOR PINUP: Stan Hansen, Jerry Lawler, Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack, Jerry Von Erich, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel, Sgt. Slaughter, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana, Road Warriors, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A., Rick Martel, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin, Jimmy Snuka, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham, Dusty Rhodes, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter, Hogan vs. Piper, Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams, Rick Steamboat, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage, Ric Flair, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura, Great American Bash, Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

January 1986/COLOR PINUP: Hack-saw Duggan, Hulk Hogan, T.A., Brody.

February 1986/COLOR PINUP: Nikita Koloff, Mike Von Erich, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

April 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair, Wendi Richter, Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

May 1986/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat, Road Warriors, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich, Hulk Hogan, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy, R & R Express, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes, Randy Savage, Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd, Nikita Koloff, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll, British Bulldogs, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

December 1986/COLOR PINUP: Great American Bash, Great American Bash, Midnight Rockers, Von Erich, Windham.

January 1987/COLOR PINUP: Fabulous Freebirds, Roddy Piper, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

February 1987/COLOR PINUP: Savage & Elizabeth, UWF Tournament, T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorf.

April 1987/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger, Dusty & Nikita, DiBiase, DeBeers, Dinga, WWF Housecleaning.



MAY 1987

May 1987/COLOR PINUP: Steve Williams, Andre-Hogan, UWF Tourny, Alano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

June 1987/COLOR PINUP: Hulk Hogan, Magnum T.A., Can-Ams, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

July 1987/COLOR PINUP: Midnight Rockers, Steamboat-Savage, Luger, Duggan, Garvins, Sting.

August 1987/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Precious, Hogan-Andre, Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.

October 1987/COLOR PINUP: Ted DiBiase, Ric Flair, Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

November 1987/COLOR PINUP: George Steele, Nikita Koloff, Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.

January 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Road Warriors, Ted DiBiase, Flair-Garvin, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

February 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin, Randy Savage, Garvin-Flair, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

April 1988/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel, Lex Luger, Flair-Garvin, Kerry, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik.

May 1988/COLOR PINUP: Sting, Andre, Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.

June 1988/COLOR PINUP: Tully Blanchard, Hulk Hogan, Muraco, Perez, Rockers, Bunkhouse Stampede.

July 1988/COLOR PINUP: Curt Hennig, Hogan vs. Andre, Express vs. Rockers, Beefcake, Perez, Rotundo-Sting.

August 1988/COLOR PINUP: Al Perez, Savage & Hogan, Gilbert-Lawler, Four Horsemen, Kerr Von Erich.

October 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ultimate Warrior, Sting, Savage, Lawler, Williams, Steamboat, Varsity Club.

November 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Midnight Express, Hogan, Rhodes, Express, Powers of Pain.

December 1988/COLOR PINUP: Hack-saw Duggan, Four Horsemen, Brody, Bigelow, Garvin, Precious.

January 1989/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham, Hogan-Savage-Elizabeth, Warriors, Sting.

February 1989/COLOR PINUP: Jake Roberts, Luger, Hogan-Savage, Kevin Von, Beefcake-Bass.

April 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steiner, Savage, Dangerously, Muraco, Turner, Powers.

May 1989/COLOR PINUP: Missy Hyatt, Hogan, Ultimate, Kerr, Luger, Steamboat, 10 stars in limbo.

June 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat, Hogan vs. Savage, Warriors, Zbyszko, Rhodes.

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The telephone wires sizzle every month as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. This is the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to see the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off . . . One on One

THEIR WAR ENGULFED the wrestling world from 1979 through 1984, but it wasn't until 1989 that Ric Flair and Rick Steamboat's bitter feud reached its ultimate climax.

On February 20, 1989, Steamboat defeated Flair to capture the NWA World title. It was the first world title of Steamboat's 13-year career, and marked the end of Flair's fifth reign atop the NWA.

The Flair-Steamboat story dates back to mid-1977, when Steamboat defeated Flair for the Mid-Atlantic TV title; he also downed the "Nature Boy" for the U.S. title later that year. For the next seven years, the Steamboat-Flair feud raged off and on, reaching particular heights of violence when Flair held the NWA World title and Steamboat wasn't busy defending either the NWA World tag team title, Mid-Atlantic title, or U.S. title.

Steamboat's WWF stint from 1985-1988 put a temporary halt to the feud, which resumed in full force in early 1989 when "The Dragon" returned to the NWA, pinned Flair in a televised tag team match, and came one step closer to fulfilling the promise he made to his wife and son: to win the NWA World belt.

Since then it's been Steamboat and his sense of family pride vs. Flair and his fast-lane lifestyle. The February 20 match was just the beginning of a stunning new phase of the Flair-Steamboat relationship—a relationship that Inside Wrestling helps bring into sharper focus as these two antagonists square off . . . "One On One."

ONE ON ONE



"Keep your wife and kid away from the ring, because you're flirting with danger if you think you can keep bringing them to the front lines of the battlefield."

—Ric Flair

RIC FLAIR:

Look, I'm a busy man, and I really don't need to spend so much time with this nonsense. Two months ago it was J.J. Dillon, now I have to deal with Mr. Homespun here?

RICK STEAMBOAT:

Let me tell you something, Flair. I'm really getting tired of you putting down me and my family. Who cares if you come to the ring with a dozen blonde bimbos on your arm? I've got something solid, something special, something you'll probably never understand.

RF: I understand it all too well. It's like *Make Room For Daddy*

when I step into the ring against you, and I'm getting fed up with it. Your kid is there, your wife is there . . .

RS: What business is that of yours?

RF: Every bit there is. The wrestling ring is a place of business to me. It's not a place for kiddie shows, and it's not a place for family portraits. It's a place where blood and sweat and skill are placed on the line for the . . .

RS: Is that why you had those . . . I hesitate to say "women" . . . why those "people" were at ringside at the Chi-Town Rumble?

RF: And what business is that of yours?

RS: Every bit there is.

V ONE



"I'm really getting tired of you putting down me and my family. I've got something solid, something special, something you'll probably never understand."

—Rick Steamboat

RF: Smart mouth.

RS: Look, it boils down to this. Your style is not the kind of style that ought to be paraded in front of a nation of impressionable children week after week on national television.

RF: Why not? It's a style based on success.

RS: It's a style that's morally void of all value! So you have a fast car and a nice suit and eat an expensive meal. When the car's in the garage and the suit's torn and the meal's done, where are you then? Family, Ric, the basic value has got to be family. That's the problem with this country, the family unit has gone down the tubes,

and . . .

RF: This is great, I feel like I'm watching public television.

RS: . . . and as the family unit falls apart, so does the moral fiber of the country. Who's going to teach right and wrong if not the parents? Who's going to care for the nation's youth if not the parents? Leave it to people like you?

RF: And what's so wrong with people like me? I represent success and excellence. Five NWA World titles, my friend, and soon to be six. I am acknowledged as the greatest NWA World champion who ever lived. Ever. That covers over eight decades and a lot of serious athletes. You could hold

that belt for 20 years and not come close to matching the record I've set in the ring.

RS: I'll give that to you, Ric, you do have a great in-the-ring record. But don't you realize that what you do *out* of the ring affects your reputation, too?

RF: My out-of-the-ring styling and profiling is my reputation. *Whoooooo!* That's what it's all about, Mr. *Father Knows Best*, winning the titles, making the money, and enjoying life.

RS: But that's so shallow! There's more to life than all that! Look, Ric, we go back a long way, and I think that . . .

RF: Hey, my stomach is beginning to churn from all this syrupy mom-kids-and-apple-pie crap you're feeding me. Why don't you just get off your high horse and live and let live? It's no big deal . . .

RS: But it is a big deal, and it's a tragedy that you don't realize that!

RF: No, it's no big deal at all. Okay, this is it. This is the end of the line. It's time to bring this conversation into focus. First of all, you are merely a temporary caretaker of my World title. Second, you wouldn't know true styling and profiling if I took you out on the town myself and showed you. Third, keep your wife and kid away from the ring, because you're flirting with danger if you think you can keep bringing them to the front lines of the battlefield and expect them to remain safe.

RS: Is that some kind of a threat? Because if you threaten me, that's one thing. But if you start to threaten my wife and my son, then you're in for trouble that will make your loss of the World title seem like a picnic.

RF: Big talker.

RS: Big talker is right. I've embarrassed you on national television, I've taken the World title, and I'm proving to the world that as a contender you simply can't cut it. Your day is done, Flair. Step aside and make room for a champion who knows the value of a title—and a family. □

SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 7)

fell on deaf ears, without even a "no, thank you."

Well, I now realize one thing. Andre may be 7'5" and weigh 500 pounds, but if he can't take a moment to make a young man's day, he isn't really so big after all.

DENNIS J. ESPERUM
Seattle

UNDERRATED?

I'd like to respond to Shelby Lambert's letter in the May 1989 issue ("A Golden Touch"). I couldn't agree with her more concerning Robert Fuller and Jimmy Golden. They're one of the craftiest teams I've seen since Ted DiBiase and Steve Williams teamed up to dominate the UWF three years ago.

Fuller and Golden captured the World Class tag team title almost immediately after they arrived in Texas. It's a great accomplishment, but for some reason they are still one of wrestling's most underrated teams. To have athletes of this caliber slip into obscurity would result in the loss of an exceptional team.

DIANE SEALS
Jenks, OK

TRUE COLORS

I can't believe the change in a man who used to be one of my favorite wrestlers: Rick Morton. When I read the "Hotseat" interview in the May 1989 issue, I felt like taking all my Rock 'n' Roll Express souvenirs off my dresser and throwing them into the trash. How could you be so mean, Ricky?

As far as I'm concerned, Morton was solely responsible for Dutch Mantel's blatant robbery of the unified title from Jerry Lawler. After a few days, they returned the title to Lawler, but that doesn't make Morton's actions any more palatable. Then, in the weeks following that match, Rick wrestled like a rulebreaker. What could he be thinking of?

I know that Rick recently reunited



Rick Morton grimaces with determination as he digs his fingertips into Jerry Lawler's eyes. Morton's feud with Lawler has made him hated in the Memphis area, and he stands to lose a lot of fans because of it—including reader Bonnie Johnson.

with Robert Gibson, and now he's claiming to be a fan favorite again. But the way he's been acting leaves a rotten feeling in the pit of my stomach. You'd better apologize, Rick, or you're going to lose all of your fans—especially me.

BONNIE JOHNSON
Memphis

UNHAPPY CHAMPS

Pat Tanaka and Paul Diamond have a right to be upset. When I read in the May 1989 issue about the kind of competition they have to face ("Wrestling's Unhappiest World Champions: Bad Days For Bad Company"), I understood just what they're going through. It's clear that Tanaka and Diamond have outgrown the AWA. It's time for them to move on.

What business do teams like Ken Patera and Terry Gibbs and The Top Guns have in requesting title shots? Is this really the best competition the AWA can find? If it is, maybe it's time for Tanaka and Diamond to put up their titles against teams from other

(Continued on page 50)

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THIS MONTH IN...



The Wrestler



RIC FLAIR's chilling vow: "I've broken **RICK STEAMBOAT'S** will . . . now I'll break his legs!"



Find out why **DINO BRAVO** is the man **HULK HOGAN** cannot beat!

PLUS . . .

The Legion of Doom's Japanese odyssey: Why **PAUL ELLERING** split up **THE ROAD WARRIOR**s . . . Memo to WWF wrestlers: Thinking of hiring a manager? Don't bother! . . . **DUSTY RHODES** and **AL PEREZ** are featured in our exclusive coverage of "The Homecoming" . . . "Q & A" interview with **MICHAEL HAYES**

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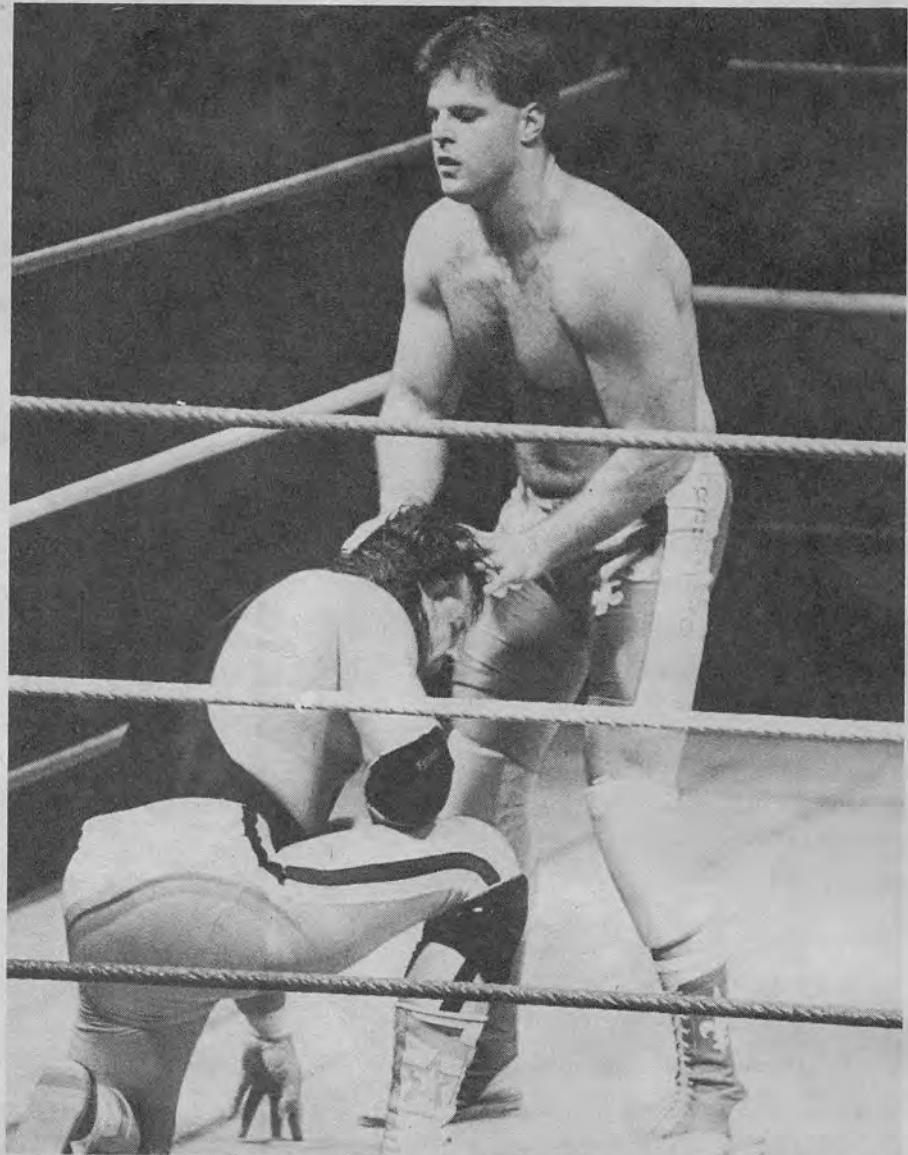
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SINCERELY YOURS

(Continued from page 48)



Jacques Rougeau enjoys an advantage against Bret Hart. Nick Debrey writes to say that Hart and Rougeau are just two of many fine athletes who have come from Canada.

areas. I think they could beat The Road Warriors, and they'd certainly be able to trash Demolition. Those other teams are bigger, but they don't have the scientific skills of Bad Company.

"Diamond" Dallas Page, do your team a favor. Get 'em out of the AWA!

ROY McNALTY
Pittsburgh

CANADIAN CONTROVERSY

I am writing this letter in response to the one written by Mark Zienda in your May 1989 issue ("Give Them A Home!").

Mr. Zienda says in his letter that the

United States doesn't want Jacques and Raymond Rougeau, and that Canada should take them back. Well, if you feel that way about it, why don't we take back all our other great wrestlers like Dino Bravo, Ronnie Garvin, and Bret Hart?

Let's face it. Canada has nothing to be embarrassed about. Our country has produced some of the finest athletes ever to grace the confines of the squared circle. So, you Americans should feel privileged to be able to see our abundance of talent, and not your patriotic idiots like Hacksaw Duggan.

NICK DEBREY
Toronto □

BACK ISSUES OF



The Wrestler

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January 1983/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

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December 1983/Stories include: Mascaras, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.

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January 1985/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.

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January 1986/20th Anniversary Issue! 10 Greatest Wrestlers, Rhodes, Hogan, Sammartino.

February 1986/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorf, Flair, Hansen.

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December 1986/Stories include: Flair, Bockwinkel, Hogan, Gilbert, Nikita.

January 1987/Stories include: Heenan, Garvin, DiBiase, Borne & Sawyer.

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October 1987/Stories include: Savage-Honky Tonk, Horsemen, Patera, Kerry.

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January 1988/Stories include: Nikita-Taylor, Warriors, DiBiase-Duggan.

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March 1988/Stories include: Hogan, Luger-Sting, Calgary, Demolition.

April 1988/Special issue! Starrcade '87, Survivor Series, AWA & World Class. Also: Strike Force, Luger, Rockers.

May 1988/Stories include: Horsemen, Hogan, Flair, Fantastics, DiBiase.

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July 1988/Stories include: Fantastics, Hogan, Windham, McMahon, Rich.

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DRESSING ROOM DOOR

(Continued from page 10)

National Wrestling Alliance, Box 105662, Atlanta, GA 30310.

American Wrestling Association, 101 Wayzata Boulevard, Minneapolis, MN 55343.

Championship Wrestling Association, Jerry Jarrett Promotions, 467 Cumberland Hills Drive, Hendersonville, TN 37075.

Pacific Northwest Wrestling, c/o Owen Promotions, 5335 W. 11th Street, Eugene, OR 97402.

Continental Wrestling Federation, 1 WOCV Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36111.

ICW, c/o Rapp Enterprises, 1650 Broadway, N.Y., N.Y. 10019.

Stampede Wrestling, c/o Hart Brothers Pro Wrestling Inc., Box 274, Midnapore, Alberta, Canada T0L 1J0.

World Class Championship Wrestling, c/o Sportatorium, 1000 S. Industrial Blvd., Dallas, TX 75207.

Florida Championship Wrestling, 106 N. Albany, Tampa, FL 33606.

Naturally, we still want to hear your comments about the sport, the magazines, our writers, and the wrestlers. But if you're looking to reach a particular wrestler, these are the places where you should write.

You're welcome.

As this is being written, a group of wrestlers including Prof. Toru Tanaka, Victor Rivera, Chavo Guerrero, and Peter Maivia Jr. is at the start of a one-month tour of the Middle East that will take them to Jordan, Egypt, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Djibouti, Oman, and Saudi Arabia.

"It's our own grass-roots attempt to help cement better relations with the Arab nations," said Joe Palumbo, promoter for All-Star California Championship



Peter Maivia Jr. will be one of several California-based grapplers to tour such Middle East countries as Egypt, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia.

Wrestling. "Besides, wrestling is very popular in the Middle East. The Arabs love it, and they're very interested in us going there. We're not politicians, but, more or less, we'd like to open communications a little more between the West and the Middle East. Maybe this will be a way of improving ties between these two parts of the world.

"There's another thing," Palumbo added. "Interest in sports in the Middle East runs high, but there really aren't many sports activities there."

Wrestling, however, is not entirely new to that region of the world. The Von Erichs are extremely popular in Israel (not included on this ACCW tour) and, of course, several top pro wres-

tlers have come from the Middle East.

This figures to be an interesting experiment in international relations. Palumbo and the ACCW are to be complimented for this venture.

It's unfortunate that, instead of being an added service and source of entertainment, cable-TV has developed over the years into yet another way for big business to rip off the American public. Sure, we were always assaulted by commercials on broadcast television, but at least we weren't paying anything.

The insult of cable-TV is that we're paying for a service and getting commercials. The biggest insult, however, is that cable networks have devoured so much of the TV sports market that it's impossible to be a sports fan without paying the price.

I bring this up because of the ongoing pay-per-view and cable-TV war between the NWA and WWF. If you're a wrestling fan, you don't want to miss big cards like WrestleMania and Starrcade. But if you want to see these shows, you have to pay upwards of \$24.95 each. Of course, you can elect not to pay the price, but then you're missing an important part of wrestling history.

At least with cable and PPV boxing, there's a good chance the fight will be available on free TV on a delayed basis. In wrestling, the big cards are usually shown on PPV, then made available on videotape for another \$35 or \$40.

What choice do you have? You're a wrestling fan and you wouldn't miss Savage vs. Hogan or Steamboat vs. Flair for anything.

Think the federations don't know this? □

BACK ISSUES OF

SPORTS REVIEW

Wrestling

Now is the time to complete your collection of **SPORTS REVIEW** WRESTLING, the magazine jam-packed with action photography and in-depth stories. Don't miss out on an issue! Quantities are limited, so order today! [NOTE: Cover stories noted in **BOLDFACE**.]

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 May 1980/Koloff-Anderson, Brody-Spoiler, Graham, Andre.
 October 1980/Hogan, Flair, Wrestling II, Super D.
 January 1981/Morales-Fuji, Zbyszko, Thornton, Keirn.
 June 1981/Morales-Khan, Lawler, Slater, Piper.
 September 1981/Backlund-Mosca, Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog.
 November 1981/Rhodes-DiBiase, Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.
 December 1981/Muraco-Morales, Patera, Steele, Andre.
 March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.
 April 1982/Spoiler, Idol-Hayes, Morales, Super D, Ladd.
 May 1982/Rich-Flair, Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.
 June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other.
 July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.
 August 1982/Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater, Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.
 October 1982/Funk-Abdullah, Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich.
 November 1982/Piper, Abdullah, Saito, Von Erich, Mascaras.
 December 1982/Backlund-Rose, Rhodes-Flair, Albano, Humperdinck.
 January 1983/Rich, McDaniel-Valentine, Patera, Brisco, Bockwinkel.
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 May 1983/Muraco, Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco, Von Erich.
 June 1983/Piper, Bockwinkel-Patterson, Brody, Sullivan, Baba.
 July 1983/Valiant-Humperdinck, Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.
 October 1983/Martel-Valentine, Mulligan, Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.
 November 1983/Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Andre, Slater, Backlund.

December 1983/Windham-LeDuc, Santana, Sullivan, Garvin.
 January 1984/Andre-Abdullah, Bockwinkel, Gilbert, Windham, Flair, Mosca.
 February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.
 March 1984/Starcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.
 April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorf.
 May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!
 June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.
 July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourney.
 August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.
 September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.
 October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.
 November 1984/Von Erich & Billy Jack, Andre, Fab Ones, Summer Wars!
 December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel, Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class.
 January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, Pro Wrestling USA, Valentine.
 February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.
 March 1985/Starcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.
 April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.
 May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.
 June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A., Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.
 July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.
 August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorf, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.
 September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorf, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr.
 October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.
 November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.

December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.
 January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.
 February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.
 March 1986/Starcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.
 April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase.
 May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.
 June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.
 July 1986/Orndorf-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Sheepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.
 August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourny, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.
 September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Lugar, Dundee, UWF tourney.
 October 1986/Orndorf, Rude-Brody, Bash, Bockwinkel, Gordy, Adams.
 November 1986/Andersons-R&R Express, Machine, Gordy, Managers.
 December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourny.
 January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.
 February 1987/Road Warriors, Savage, Windham & Lugar, 1987 Datebook.
 March 1987/Kamala-Hogan, Starcade 86, Atlas, Williams, Tatum.
 April 1987/1986 In Pictures, Kevin Von, Flair, Rich, Hennig-Bockwinkel.
 May 1987/Nikita-Flair, Bulldogs, Albano's career, Snuka-DeBeers, Taylor.
 June 1987/Hogan-Andre, Hall, Parsons, Garvin, WWF title history.
 July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steambat, Adams, NWA in Boston.
 August 1987/Nord-Kevin, Armstrong-Flair, Hogan & Patera, Crockett Cup.
 September 1987/Hogan, Akbar, Luger-Nikita, Summer Feuds, charity shows.
 October 1987/Windham, Bigelow, Bockwinkel, Western States tourny.
 November 1987/Bash, Honky Tonk, Hart, Sheepherders, Condrey.
 December 1987/Grappling Ghouls, Hogan-Andre, Luger-Nikita, Boesch card

January 1988/Honky Tonk, Garvin, T.A. career, Arcidi, Hogan.
 February 1988/Rhodes, Strike Force, Rich-Adonis, Hyatt, 1988 datebook.
 March 1988/Starcade, Survivor Series, Simpson, Hennig, Zbyszko.
 April 1988/1987 In Pictures, Tully & Arn, DiBiase, Kerry, Orton.
 May 1988/Hawk-Flair, Andre-Hogan, Dangerously, Duggan, Mike George, June 1988/Luger-Tully, DiBiase, Adams, NWA New York invasion.
 July 1988/Savage wins WWF tourney, Rockers-Express, Hayes, Dusty-Rider.
 August 1988/Luger and Sting win Crockett Cup, Savage-DiBiase, Nasty Boys, Ultimate Warrior.
 September 1988/Predictions Through 1998, Williams, Rhodes, Bad Company, greatest Garden matches.
 October 1988/Midnight Rockers, Sting, Taylor, Koloff, Hot Young Lions.
 November 1988/R&R Express, Honky Tonk, Von Erichs, Great American Bash.
 December 1988/Warriors, Samoan SWAT Team, Hart, Andre, Presidential Wrestlers.
 January 1989/Jake-Cheryl-Rude, Sting, Lawler, Flair, Savage's career.
 February 1989/The Champions in '89, Duggan, Roberts, 1989 datebook.
 April 1989/Starcade '88, Savage-Hogan, Funk-Mulligan, Heenan, Abdullah.
 May 1989/Royal Rumble, Wrestlemania, Rhodes, Lawler, Horsemen.

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KERRY VON ERICH

(Continued from page 33)

ter a period of rest, Kevin returned to the ring late last year, but has taken on only a limited agenda since then. Despite his problems, however, Kevin believes that it will

be only a matter of time before he returns to wrestling on a full-time basis.

"Post-concussion syndrome is something I've learned to live

with," said Kevin recently. "It's not a big problem if I treat it right, but given the violent nature of wrestling it's very possible I could be hurt. That's why I've cut down drastically on my appearances. Of course, with some opponents, like Super Black Ninja, I'll make an exception."

Earlier this year, Von Erich was baited into a feud by the Ninja's managers, Gen. Skandor Akbar and Kendo Nagasaki. Kevin succeeded in driving the Ninja out of World Class, but with each passing match, Kerry's concern grew.

"That Ninja has a clawhold that's almost as deadly as Kevin's," said Kerry. "In match after match, those guys clawed at each other like crazy. Kevin emerged as the better man, but what would have happened if he couldn't break out of the claw? It would be only too easy for some of Akbar's cronies to triple-team Kevin, and they could have done some serious damage."

Reportedly, the matches between Ninja and Kevin were a source of friction between the Von Erich brothers. Kerry didn't want Kevin to land back in the hospital. Kevin didn't want to look like a coward by backing down from the Japanese star's challenge.

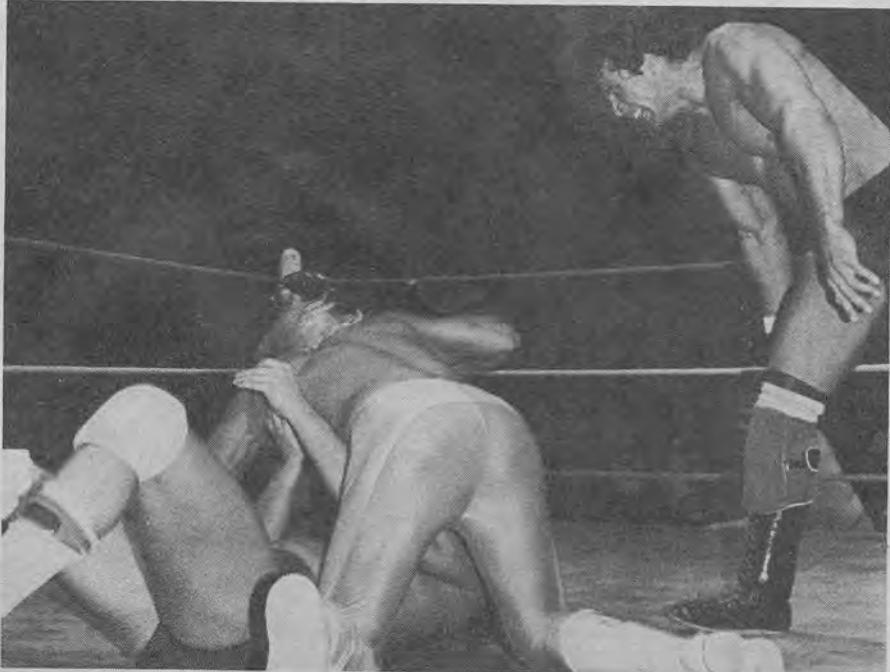
"Sure, we argued about it," said Kevin. "But we're brothers, and now we have a greater understanding of each other. There are always going to be opponents that I'll want to wrestle—hey, it's the same with Kerry and Jerry Lawler, right? Well, that's the way I felt about the Ninja. I know when to pick my spots. I'm not about to let anyone injure me. I know what I'm doing."

Kerry isn't so sure.

"If there's a Von Erich trait that Kevin displays more than any other, it's his pride," he said. "This

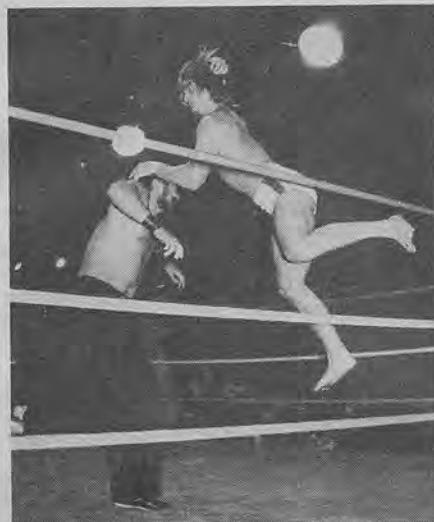


After Kerry weakens Robert Fuller with an armlock (above), Jarrett moves in for the pin attempt (below). The teamwork between Kerry and Jarrett has almost reached the level of excellence formerly shown by Kerry and his brother Kevin.



time, I was really worried about him. But we talked about it after the Ninja feud died down, and he decided to cut down on his schedule a little bit. Frankly, I only want to see him wrestle if he's at 100 percent capacity—nothing less will do."

Thankfully, Jarrett has picked up where Kevin left off. He's become Kerry's most trusted friend, coming to his rescue during several recent sneak-attacks. Also a second-generation wrestler, Jarrett understands how important family can be to a young wrestler.



Kevin fires an elbow from the ropes against The Black Ninja, one of the few opponents Kevin will wrestle under any circumstance—much to the dismay of Kerry.

"Hey, family is family," said Jarrett after speaking with Kerry. "The Von Erichs are both great people. I just hope that someday Kevin is well enough to team with his brother again. In the meantime, I want Kerry and Kevin to know they've got a friend they can depend on until they can be a team again."

Kerry admits that day might never come. He is thankful that Jarrett understands that any other partner will always seem like a replacement for Kevin. He also insists that the best days for the Von Erichs are yet to come.

"Someday, somehow, the Von Erichs will be a unit again," he said softly. "On that day, I'll really want to celebrate." □

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7. Be moderate in consumption of alcoholic beverages.

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THE INSIDER

(Continued from page 16)



Taylor uses the ropes to knee "Brooklyn Brawler" Steve Lombardi. Ellner feels this feud will do nothing to advance Taylor's career; indeed, it will set it back significantly.

friended Eddie Gilbert. He tried to ignore his foolish good looks and cultivate a mean-spirited arrogance. When he walked away from World Class and abandoned the Texas title, he impressed many ring observers with his disdain for crowns. It appeared there was hope for the boy yet.

Appearances were deceiving.

•
He wasn't born, he was hatched.

—universal childhood barb

•
Is he or isn't he?

What would lead a grown man to spray-paint a red streak down the middle of his head, parade around the ring in a poultry strut, cockadoodledoo his welcome to

the fans, and wrestle like—what else?—a chicken? Perhaps there were breasts, thighs, and drumsticks pecking away somewhere in his family tree?

Imagine the conversation that might occur should I succeed in interviewing Taylor's personal physician:

"It's not very likely," the doctor might say. "I have examined Terry Taylor many times. All his vital signs point to one conclusion—he's all man, no chicken."

Physically speaking, perhaps, but what of his precarious mental state? What dark and murky secrets lay smoldering between his feathered ears? Is it possible for his brain to have shrunk to the size, say, of an osprey's? What

else could account for his fowl behavior?

Should I believe the following tale, related to me by a hardcore wrestling fan of 15 years?

The story goes that 15-year-old Anne Farber spotted Taylor in a north Florida McDonald's screaming at a young boy eating a nine-piece order of chicken McNuggets. "He grabbed for the child," Farber recounts, "and told him to leave mommy and daddy alone. The little boy started to cry and ran from the restaurant."

Truth or falsehood, the fact the story is being related at all is enough for me. The *real* question, dear readers who've stuck with me this far, is:



Taylor armlocks Rick Steiner during a 1986 UWF bout in Houston. Ellner laments the loss of the young, scientific Taylor from those days.

Could even an insane amount of money drive someone to strut like a rooster?

Taylor, who began his career as an innocuous, pretty-boy crowd-pleaser, has obviously gone mad. Engaged now in a meaningless feud with Brooklyn Brawler Steve (After 3,000 Preliminary Matches I've Finally Got A Nickname) Lombardi, Taylor is light years away from his championship days in the UWF and Texas. The promise of his youth is just a faded, jaded memory.

I hope he's not doing it all for birdfeed. □

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HART & SAVAGE

(Continued from page 37)

main in Memphis. In 1985, he joined the WWF.

That was the same year Savage joined the WWF. He was the most heavily recruited newcomer in WWF history. Among the managers hungry to sign him was . . . Jimmy Hart.

"Hart is shrewd, he's no fool," said a close friend. "Having a great talent like that in his stable was an opportunity he jumped at. He was very familiar with what Savage could do, and he wanted to make amends."

In the end, Savage rejected all the established managers and surprised everyone by choosing an unknown named Elizabeth. But despite losing out, Hart continued to keep a close watch on the "Macho Man's" career. He looked on in admiration as Savage captured the Intercontinental title in 1986. He watched with respect as the "Macho Man" won the World championship in 1988. In fact, he charted Savage's career closer than any fan or journalist.

All of Hart's careful attention paid off when the Savage-Hogan breakup occurred. Anticipating that Elizabeth would be reluctant to continue on as Savage's manager, Hart decided to contact Savage.

"Jimmy knew he had to be extremely careful," his friend said. "Savage doesn't drop a grudge very easily, and like most guys in this business, he's highly suspicious of anyone and everyone."

Savage's suspicions persisted, but, according to informed sources, he decided to give Hart a listen. The manager set up a series of secret meetings that actually weren't so secret. Almost daily, there were reports of Hart and Savage being seen together in airport terminals and restaurants in various cities. None of these meetings were witnessed by *Inside Wrestling* staff members.

One night, following one such reported meeting, Rude made his first appearance in Savage's corner. Although he's now managed by Bobby Heenan, Rude has maintained a close relationship

with both his former manager and stablemate. For Rude, it was an opportunity not only to help out a friend, but to distract a hated opponent in the Warrior.

The "Macho Man" has been so pleased with Rude's help, sources say that he has begun listening to Hart more closely.

"No one can deny that Hart is



The "Mouth of the South" can't escape from Savage's grasp. Though they were enemies for many years, Hart kept a close eye on the "Macho Man's" career, and was eager to help him out after the Hogan-Savage split.

a strategic genius," said WWF expert Thomas Pilliard. "Any man who can lead The Honky Tonk Man to the Intercontinental title has to be a genius. Savage hasn't forgotten that while they had their differences five years ago, Hart taught him a lot about the sport."

Although Hart is proud to be giving Savage advice—and Savage is happy to listen—neither man has publicly acknowledged that Hart is in Savage's corner.

"Each man has his good reasons," our source said. "Hart doesn't want to anger his other men (Honky Tonk and Greg Valentine). More importantly, he doesn't want to set himself up for a big humiliation if Savage loses the title to Hogan."

"As for Savage," he continued,



Savage uses an eyerake to back King Kong Bundy into the turnbuckle. Bundy was also a member of Hart's Memphis stable along with Savage and Rude.

"he feels he needs to prove to the world that he can be his own man. He wants to show everybody he doesn't need a manager or a partner. It gnaws at him that some people think he wouldn't have won the belt in the first place without Hogan's help."

That's what it comes down to for Savage: a chance to escape Hulk Hogan's shadow. And Jimmy Hart is the "secret" weapon that isn't a secret anymore. □

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WINTER 1985/Color pinup: Barry Windham. Stories include: Hogan, Zbyszko, Kerry, R&R Express, Steamboat, Thesz.

SPRING 1986/Color pinup: The Road Warriors. Stories include: Martel, Savage vs. Poffo, Hogan, Santana, Steamboat.

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FALL 1986/Color pinup: Randy Savage. Stories include: R&R Express, Missy, Roberts, Windham, Luger, Rhodes.

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SPECIAL ISSUE #1

For the first time ever, the March 1989 edition of *Sports Review Wrestling* presented a spectacular eight-page FULL-COLOR section—"1988: The Year In Pictures." It was an astounding review of the year's most important matches and events, and was available only in this once-in-a-lifetime magazine.



SPECIAL ISSUE #2
A dynamic special section in the April 1989 issue of *Inside Wrestling* offered four pages of

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April 1989

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ON ASSIGNMENT

(Continued from page 18)

arsenal of wrestling skills.

But the ringleader, in the bars and in the rings, was Hayes. He led the charge; he called the shots.

The gym rarely interfered with their workouts. With Gordy and Roberts flanking Hayes, the trio would barhop through small southern towns, courting mayhem like unrequited lovers. They practiced dropkicks in barrooms and figure-fours in hotel suites. Like a swarm of locusts they would enter a town, ruin the men in the ring—the women out of it—and move on. They were devil children, out for a good time 24 hours a day.

Michael Hayes called me the night the Freebirds broke up.

"It's over, Lizzie," he cried into the phone. He sounded like a man going through a painful, but inevitable, divorce. "It's gone sour. It's not fun anymore. I need

to make something of myself, right myself for the future, make up for the mistakes of the past."

Hayes talked about finding a girl and settling down, cutting down his drinking, maybe getting into the recording business on a full-time basis (his "Badstreet U.S.A." single, and accompanying album, had become a moderate Texas-area hit) and quitting the ring in a few years. Then he dropped the bombshell.

"I'm teaming with Kerry Von Erich," he told me. "Watch what we do to this sport."

I watched and watched and waited for Michael Hayes to renege on this promise as he had on every other one he made during his career. Hayes and Von Erich? Whiskey and milk don't mix. But the mix, oddly enough, went down as smooth as silk. There were no arguments and no

As World Class six-man champions, the Freebirds—Terry Gordy, Hayes, and Buddy Roberts—were one of the wildest trios in the sport's history.



tantrums. I still waited. I still didn't believe.

Hayes' move to the NWA was in keeping with his genteel image. "I'll team with Lex Luger and make things safe for the good guys," he enthused. "I like the cheers."

I watched and waited and didn't believe.

Thank God.

Last month, the genuine confederate rebel in Hayes' soul finally emerged. While Luger turned his back, Hayes joined Barry and Kendall Windham and turned Luger's head into an exploding melon. "The south rises again!" Hayes screamed in the locker room after the carnage, sucking on a bottle of Jack Daniels.

With rumors of a Freebird reunion in the works, the state of the Union never looked so dreary. And Hayes was never happier.

"Man, was I going crazy," he admitted. "I'm no do-gooder. I was born to raise hell, and hell I'll raise till my dying day. Take that to the bank and invest it." □



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SPRING 1987



FALL 1988

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SUMMER 1984/Color pinups: Patera-Gagne, Windham-Bart, Bundy-Garvin, Koloff-Mosca. Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Flair-Race, Adams-Garvin, Snuka, Idol, Orndorf.

FALL 1984/Color pinups: Haynes-Nagasaki, Kabuki-Kamala, Steamboat-Slater, Blanchard-Colon. Stories include: Hogan, David Von Erich, Flair-Brody, Blanchard.

WINTER 1984/Color pinups: Michael Hayes, Flair-McDaniel, Gilbert-Rich, Haynes-Funk. Stories include: Kerry Von Erich, Martel-Bockwinkel, Piper, Flair-Steamboat.

SPRING 1985/Color pinups: Animal-Funk, Poffo-Gilbert, Nikita-Fernandez, Garvin-McDaniel. Stories include: Warriors, Hogan, Albano, Rhodes, Sullivan.

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FALL 1986/Color pinups: Kirchner-Volkoff, Nikita-Hawk, Morton-Flair, Nord-Hennig. Stories include: R&R Express, Luger, Savage, Bulldogs, Hansen, Rude, Williams.

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SPRING 1988/Color pinups: Jason-Hart, Konga-Sting, OMG-Santana, Von Erich-Adias. Stories include: Warriors, Hogan-Andre, DiBiase, Honky Tonk, T.A., War Games.

SUMMER 1988/Color pinups: Von Erich-Roberts, Sting-Rotundo, Misty-Dallas, Reed-Muraco. Stories include: Luger, Hogan, Cornette, Hennig, Bigelow, Hyatt, Rude.

FALL 1988/Color pinups: Santana-Smash, Warford-Hawk, Adams-Taylor, Hennig-Lawler. Stories include: Luger, Hogan, DiBiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting, Savage.

WINTER 1988/Color pinups: Kerry, Hayes, OMG, Sting, Luger, Idol, Ultimate, Brody. Stories include: Sting, Hyatt, Dusty, Roberts, Ultimate, Powers of Pain.

SPRING 1989/Color pinups: Slaughter, Sheik, Andre, Savage, Flair, Steiner, Madusa, Richter. Stories include: Savage, Bossman, Sting, Lawler, Hogan, Luger.

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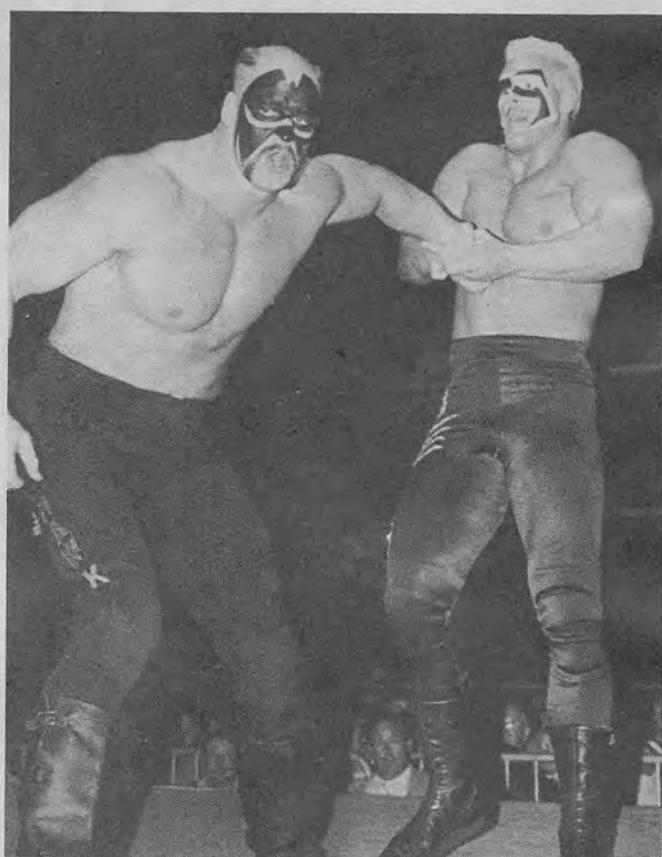
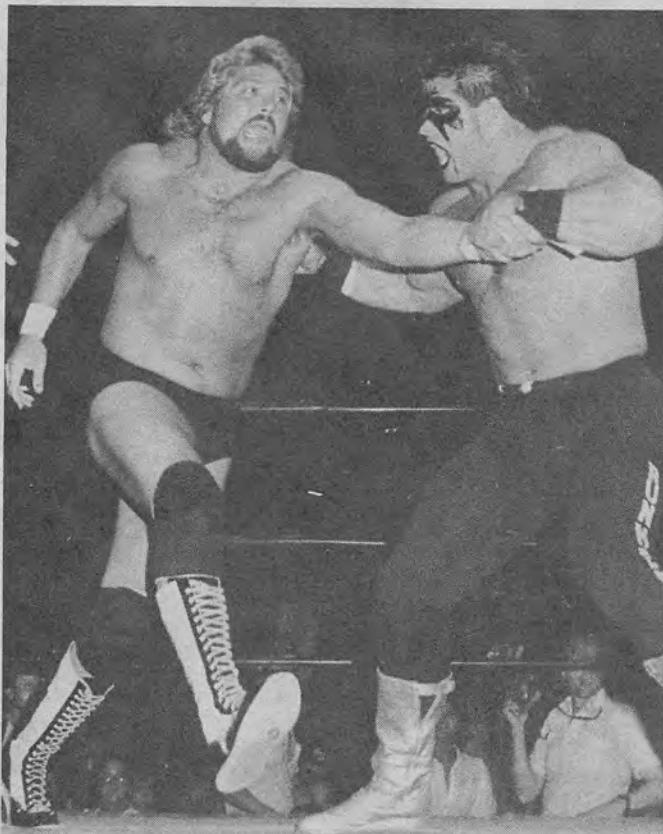
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MEGAPOWERS II

(Continued from page 35)



Ultimate Warrior—known at the time as Rock—whips Ted DiBiase across the ring during a 1986 match (above left). Sting works over the arm of Road Warrior Hawk (above right). Warrior ponders his next move against Randy Savage (below).



tag team would likely be the biggest news the wrestling world has seen in years. When Sting and the Warrior began their pro careers as part of Powerteam U.S.A. in California in 1985, they were as powerful as any duo in wrestling, but they were raw and unpolished. In 1989, the combination of Sting and The Ultimate Warrior could possibly make even the legendary Road Warriors shake in their boots.

"Imagine that—me and Ultimate against Hawk and Animal," fantasized Sting. "We'd be the NWA World tag champs before those musclebound goons knew what hit 'em. Of course, that's not the only direction we could take. The WWF champs look to be easy pickings, too."

Actually, Demolition is a much better team now than they were a year ago, but Sting is right; they'd likely crumble under the power of Megapowers II. Together, these two young stars might even give Hulk Hogan a run as the most popular

attraction in the sport!

"I'm gettin' goosebumps just thinkin' about this," enthused Sting. "Maybe I should give ol' Rock a call. Together, we could dominate the NWA, or the WWF, and even the AWA. Maybe we could wrestle everywhere. We could humiliate Hogan and Savage. Ruin The Road Warriors! Destroy Demolition! Brutalize Bad Company! Oh, man, it would be so easy—and so incredible! Oooww!"

Sting was brought back to earth, though, when he thought about the Warrior's Intercontinental title. It's not very likely that the 275-pound behemoth would walk away from this important championship, even with the tempting prospect of reforming his team with Sting. And Sting hadn't considered the most important question of all: Would he enter the WWF, or would the Warrior come to the NWA?

"It doesn't matter who goes where," said Sting, "Together, we could dominate wrestling. I realize that this is just a fantasy, but I can dream, can't I? It would be a lot better than stagnating the way I have the past few months."

Sting surely wouldn't stagnate with the Warrior in his corner. Imagine a match pitting Sting and Warrior against The Road Warriors:

As challengers, Sting and Warrior enter the ring first. As usual, Hawk and Animal storm the ring, but the Megapowers II attack first. Sting dropkicks Hawk over the top rope, while the Warrior gorilla-presses and slams Animal to the mat with ease. As Animal falls limply to the canvas, Sting locks him in his scorpion leglock. New champions, and new legends.

It's been a long time since a team set the wrestling world on its ear. And it's clear that Sting and The Ultimate Warrior would be the biggest duo in the sport, possibly even eclipsing the Hogan-Savage Megapowers in the eyes of the fans.

The world is waiting. It's time for Sting and the Warrior to reunite! □

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INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

- 1—RICK STEAMBOAT**
NWA World champion
2—RANDY SAVAGE
WWF World champion
3—RIC FLAIR
No. 2 contender: NWA title

- 4—HULK HOGAN**
No. 2 contender: WWF title
5—LEX LUGER
U.S. champion
6—ULTIMATE WARRIOR
WWF Intercontinental champ
7—LARRY ZBYSZKO
AWA World champion

- 8—STING**
NWA TV champion
9—BARRY WINDHAM
No. 1 contender: U.S. title
10—JERRY LAWLER
World Class champion
11—MIKE ROTUNDO
No. 3 contender: NWA title

- 12—DUSTY RHODES**
PWF champion
13—JEFF JARRETT
CWA champion
14—DAVEY BOY SMITH
Stampede N. American champ
15—TOM PRICHARD
CWF champion

NWA

- 1—RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
2—LEX LUGER
268, Chicago, IL
3—RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN

- 4—STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
5—BARRY WINDHAM
263, Sweetwater, TX
6—MIKE ROTUNDO
245, Syracuse, NY
7—RICK STEINER
248, Detroit, MI

- 8—BUTCH REED**
265, Kansas City, MO
9—THE IRON SHEIK
263, Teheran, Iran
10—MICHAEL HAYES
255, Marietta, GA
11—EDDIE GILBERT
222, Lexington, TN

- 12—DICK MURDOCH**
280, Waxahachie, TX
13—THE GREAT MUTO
245, Tokyo, Japan
14—STEVE WILLIAMS
265, Norman, OK
15—RANGER ROSS
225, Acworth, GA

AWA

- 1—LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA
2—GREG GAGNE
220, Robbinsdale, MN
3—TOM ZENK
237, Minneapolis, MN

- 4—WAHOO McDANIEL**
280, Midland, TX
5—SGT. SLAUGHTER
310, Parris Island, SC
6—KEN PATERA
256, Portland, OR
7—MANNY FERNANDEZ
245, El Paso, TX

- 8—COL. DeBEERS**
248, Cape Town, S. Africa
9—TOMMY RICH
248, Hendersonville, TN
10—DERRICK DUKES
232, Boston, MA
11—JIM GARVIN
235, Tampa, FL

- 12—RICKY RICE**
230, Medina, MN
13—PAT TANAKA
265, Tokyo, Japan
14—PAUL DIAMOND
230, Thunder Bay, Ontario
15—BRAD RHEINGANS
248, Appleton, MN

WWF

- 1—RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
2—ULTIMATE WARRIOR
280, Queens, NY
3—HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA

- 4—BIG BOSSMAN**
348, Cobb County, GA
5—BAD NEWS BROWN
280, New York, NY
6—TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NE
7—HACKSAW DUGGAN
280, Glens Falls, NY

- 8—DINO BRAVO**
246, Montreal, Quebec
9—ANDRE THE GIANT
497, Grenoble, France
10—AKEEM
468, Chicago, IL
11—CURT HENNIG
235, Minneapolis, MN

- 12—RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
13—JAKE ROBERTS
246, Stone Mountain, GA
14—TERRY TAYLOR
225, Vero Beach, FL
15—KING HAKU
270, Tonga

MOST POPULAR

- 1—HULK HOGAN**
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
2—STING
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular
3—ULTIMATE WARRIOR
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular

- 4—RICK STEAMBOAT**
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
5—LEX LUGER
Last month: No. 5 Most Popular
6—RICK STEINER
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular
7—HACKSAW DUGGAN
Last month: unrated

- 8—DUSTY RHODES**
Last month: No. 10 Most Popular
9—JEFF JARRETT
Last month: No. 9 Most Popular
10—JERRY LAWLER
Last month: No. 14 Most Popular
11—TOM ZENK
Last month: unrated

- 12—KERRY VON ERICH**
Last month: No. 12 Most Popular
13—BRUTUS BEEFCAKE
Last month: No. 13 Most Popular
14—ERIC EMBRY
Last month: unrated
15—CHRIS BENOIT
Last month: unrated

MOST HATED

- 1—RANDY SAVAGE**
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated
2—RIC FLAIR
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated
3—BIG BOSSMAN
Last month: No. 3 Most Hated

- 4—BARRY WINDHAM**
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
5—AKEEM
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated
6—ANDRE THE GIANT
Last month: No. 6 Most Hated
7—LARRY ZBYSZKO
Last month: No. 9 Most Hated

- 8—MIKE ROTUNDO**
Last month: No. 7 Most Hated
9—MICHAEL HAYES
Last month: No. 8 Most Popular
10—RICK RUDE
Last month: No. 8 Most Hated
11—TED DiBIASE
Last month: No. 11 Most Hated

- 12—TOM PRICHARD**
Last month: No. 15 Most Hated
13—BAM BAM BIGELOW
Last month: unrated
14—DUTCH MANTEL
Last month: No. 13 Most Hated
15—GARY YOUNG
Last month: unrated

TAG TEAMS

- 1—THE ROAD WARRIORS**
NWA World tag team champions
2—DEMOLITION
WWF World tag team champions
3—WARLORD & BARBARIAN
No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title
4—THE SAMOAN SWAT TEAM
No. 2 contenders: NWA tag team title
5—RICK STEINER & EDDIE GILBERT
U.S. tag team champions

- 6—TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON**
No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title
7—THE ROCKERS
No. 3 contenders: WWF tag team title
8—KEN PATERA & BRAD RHEINGANS
AWA World tag team champions
9—MIKE ROTUNDO & STEVE WILLIAMS
No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag team title
10—KERRY VON ERICH & JEFF JARRETT
World Class tag team champions

- 11—PAT TANAKA & PAUL DIAMOND**
No. 1 contenders: AWA tag team title
12—BOBBY JAGGERS & BLACK BART
FCW tag team champions
13—VULKAN & MAKHAN SINGH
Stampede tag team champions
14—JACQUES & RAYMOND ROUGEAU
No. 4 contenders: WWF tag team title
15—JOHNNY & DAVEY RICH
CWF tag team champions

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler . . . "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices . . . Championships marked with asterisks on the "Roll Call of Champions" indicate title changes that have taken place since our previous issue . . . The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place .

For period ended March 31, 1989

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

ALL-CALIFORNIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING CHAMPION:

CHAVO GUERRERO

(September 23, 1988; from Jack Armstrong; Lancaster, CA)

ALL-CALIFORNIA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

PETER MAIVIA JR. & MANDO GUERRERO

(September 24, 1988; from The Lords of Discipline; Victorville, CA)

ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

TOSHIAKI KAWADA & SAMSON FUYUKI

(September 15, 1988; from Shinichi Nakano & Shunji Cakano; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: JUMBO TSURUTA

(April 14, 1988; from Bruiser Brody; Sendai, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

STAN HANSEN & TERRY GORDY

(December 16, 1988; tournament final over Genichiro Tenryu & Toshiaki Kawada; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MIGHTY INOU

(January 25, 1989; from Joe Malenko; Osaka, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN

(July 27, 1988; from Genichiro Tenryu; Nagano, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: LIONESS ASUKA

(January 29, 1989; over Chigusa Nagayo; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: MIKA KOMATSU

(July 10, 1988; from Yumi Ogura; Edmonton, Alberta, Canada)

* ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

LIONESS ASUKA & CHIGUSA NAGAYO

(March 4, 1989; from Mika Komatsu & Yumi Ogura; Tokyo, Japan)

AWA TV CHAMPION: GREG GAGNE

(December 13, 1988; from Ron Garvin; Chicago, IL)

AWA WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: WENDI RICHTER

(November 26, 1988; from Madusa Miceli; Bloomington, MN)

AWA WORLD CHAMPION: LARRY ZBYSZKO

(February 7, 1989; battle royal victory to fill vacant title; St. Paul, MN)

* AWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: KEN PATERA & BRAD RHEINGANS

(March 25, 1989; from Pat Tanaka & Paul Diamond; Rochester, MN)

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH CHAMPION: CHRIS BENOIT

(January 13, 1989; from Johnny Smith; Calgary, Alberta)

CONTINENTAL HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TOM PRICHARD

(October 3, 1988; tournament final over Tony Anthony; Birmingham, AL)

CONTINENTAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JOHNNY & DAVEY RICH

(February 17, 1989; from Jerry Stubbs & Tony Anthony; Knoxville, TN)

CONTINENTAL U.S. JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DAN DAVIS

(November 2, 1988; from Ken Wayne; Harriman, TN)

* CWA CHAMPION: JEFF JARRETT

(March 11, 1989; from Dutch Mantel; Memphis, TN)

CWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TRACY SMOOTH & JOHN PAUL

(February 13, 1989; tournament final over Robert Fuller & Perry Jackson; Memphis, TN)

* FLORIDA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING CHAMPION: AL PEREZ

(March 11, 1989; from Mike Graham; Tampa, FL)

FLORIDA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JIM BACKLUND

(December 10, 1988; from Tyree Pride; Tampa, FL)

* FLORIDA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BLACK BART & BOBBY JAGGERS

(March 28, 1989; from The Nasty Boys; Tampa, FL)

ICW CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS

(February 11, 1989; from Joe Savoldi; Presque Isle, ME)

* ICW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: PHIL APOLLO & ERIC SBRACCIA

(March 5, 1989; from Vic Steamboat & Joe Savoldi; Augusta, ME)

IWGP CHAMPION: TATSUMI FUJINAMI

(June 24, 1988; over Riki Choshu; Osaka, Japan)

* IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: SUPER STRONG MACHINE & GEORGE TAKANO

(March 16, 1989; from Masa Saito & Riki Choshu; Yokohama, Japan)

* IWGP JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: HIRO HASE

(March 16, 1989; from Shiro Koshinaka; Yokohama, Japan)

NWA SIX-MAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

THE ROAD WARRIORS & GENICHIRO TENRYU

(December 7, 1988; via Animal's victory over Dusty Rhodes; Chattanooga, TN)

* NWA TV CHAMPION: STING

(March 31, 1989; from Mike Rotundo; Atlanta, GA)

NWA WORLD CHAMPION: RICK STEAMBOAT

(February 20, 1989; from Ric Flair; Chicago, IL)

NWA WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE ROAD WARRIORS

(October 29, 1988; from The Midnight Express; New Orleans, LA)

NATIONAL WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: JULES STRONGBOW

(by NWF officials' decision)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAMPION: THE GRAPPLER

(January 28, 1989; from Top Gun; Portland, OR)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

BUDDY ROSE & COL. DEBEERS

(January 28, 1989; from Steve Doll & Scott Petersen; Portland, OR)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: STAN HANSEN

(July 27, 1988; from Genichiro Tenryu; Nagano, Japan)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JUMBO TSURUTA & YOSHIKI YATSU

(February 2, 1988; from Stan Hansen & Terry Gordy; Kansas City, KS)

* PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: DUSTY RHODES

(March 11, 1989; over U.S. Steel; Tampa, FL)

* STAMPEDE NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: DAVEY BOY SMITH

(March 24, 1989; from Don Muraco; Calgary, Alberta)

STAMPEDE INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

MAKHAN & VULKAN SINGH

(December 30, 1988; from The British Bulldogs; Calgary, Alberta)

U.S. CHAMPION: LEX LUGER

(February 20, 1989; from Barry Windham; Chicago, IL)

U.S. TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: EDDIE GILBERT & RICK STEINER

(February 28, 1989; from Kevin Sullivan & Steve Williams; Columbia, SC)

WORLD CLASS CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER

(December 13, 1988; from Kerry Von Erich; Chicago, IL)

WORLD CLASS LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: ERIC EMBRY

(January 14, 1989; from Cactus Jack; Dallas, TX)

* WORLD CLASS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JEFF JARRETT & KERRY VON ERICH

(March 12, 1989; from Robert Fuller & Jimmy Golden; Dallas, TX)

* WORLD CLASS TEXAS CHAMPION: GARY YOUNG

(March 4, 1989; by forfeit from Brickhouse Brown; San Antonio, TX)

* WORLD CLASS TEXAS TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BEAUTY & THE BEAST

(March 3, 1989; tournament final over Chris Adams & Jeff Jarrett; Dallas, TX)

* WWC CARIBBEAN CHAMPION: TNT

(March 4, 1989; from Jason The Terrible; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWC CARIBBEAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

MIGUEL PEREZ JR. & HURRICANE CASTILLO JR.

(October 15, 1988; from Bobby Jaggers & Dan Kroffat; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

WWC JR. HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: RICKY SANTANA

(January 14, 1989; from El Prophet; Caguas, Puerto Rico)

WWC NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER

(January 30, 1988; from Miguel Perez Jr.; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

* WWC PUERTO RICAN CHAMPION: ABUGHADIDEN

(March 4, 1989; tournament final over TNT; Bayamon, Puerto Rico)

* WWC TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JASON THE TERRIBLE & STEVE STRONG

(March 11, 1989; from Brad & Bart Batten; Caguas, Puerto Rico)

WWC UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: CARLOS COLON

(December 18, 1988; from Ronnie Garvin; San Juan, Puerto Rico)

WWC WOMEN'S CHAMPION: WENDI RICHTER

(July 28, 1987; from Monster Ripper; Trinidad, West Indies)

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

(August 29, 1988; from The Honky Tonk Man; New York, NY)

WWF WORLD CHAMPION: RANDY SAVAGE

(March 27, 1988; tournament final over Ted DiBiase; Atlantic City, NJ)

WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DEMOLITION

(March 27, 1988; from Rick Martel & Tito Santana; Atlantic City, NJ)

WWF WOMEN'S CHAMPION: ROCKIN' ROBIN

(October 7, 1988; from Sherri Martel; Paris, France)

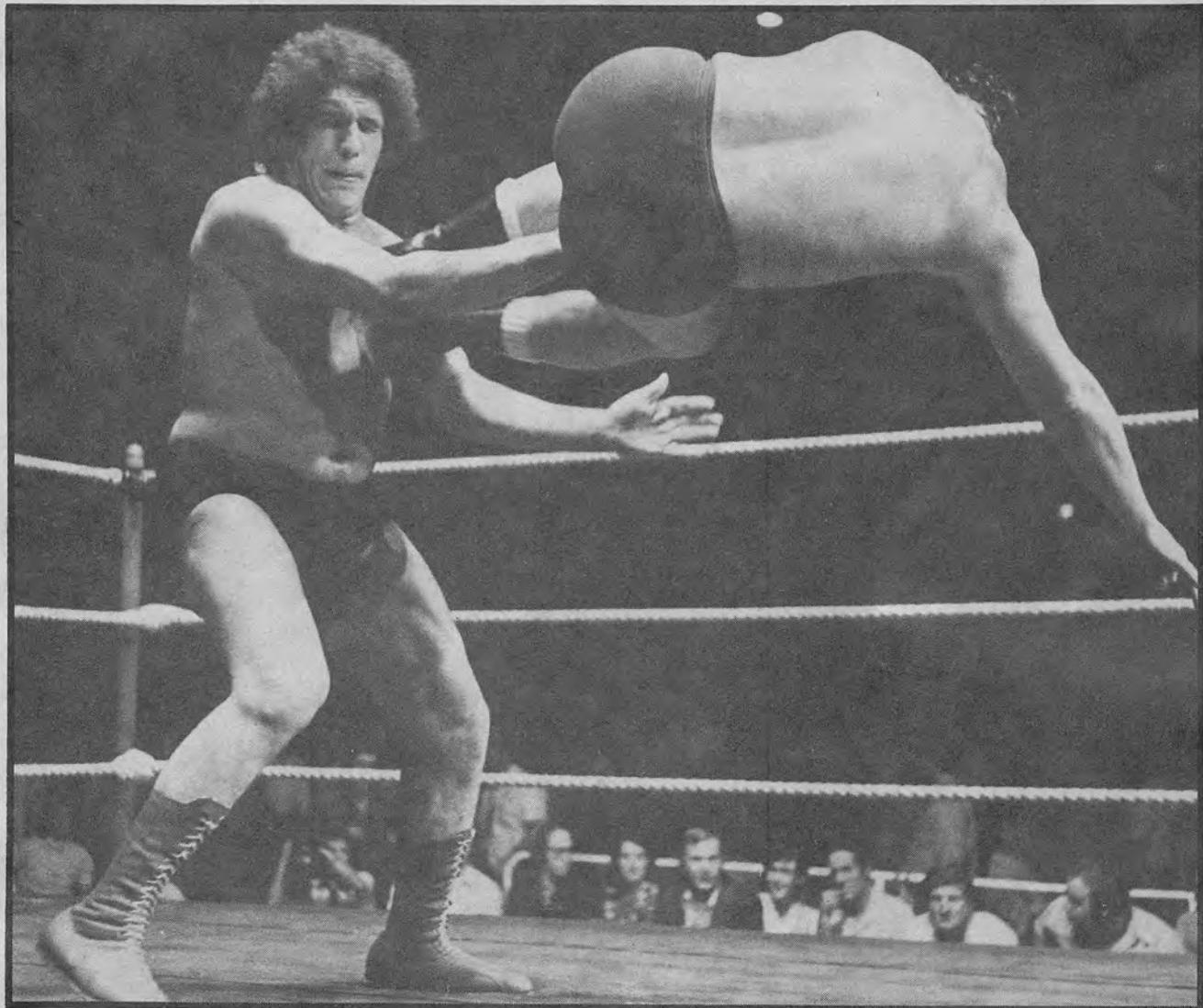
WWF WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: LELANI KAI & JUDY MARTIN

(June 8, 1988; from The Jumping Bomb Angels; Omiya City, Japan)

Blast From The Past

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ANDRE THE GIANT vs. DON LEO JONATHAN MAY 1972

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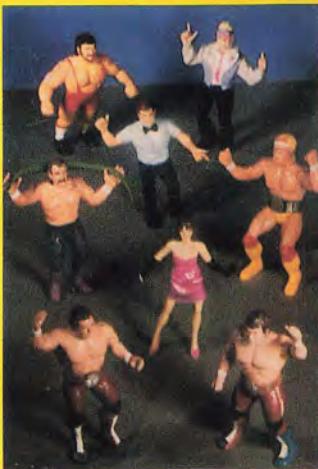
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